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British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES 1846-48

Colonies General

4

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Contents

IUP Page Number

For ease of reference IUP editors have assigned a continuous pagination which appears on the top outer margin of each page.

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1845
1846 [728] Vol XXIX 9

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1846
1847 [869] Vol XXXVII 167

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1847
1847–48 [1005] Vol XLVI 411

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THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1845 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies: in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S

COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1845.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July, 1846.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1846.

SCHEDULE.

NORTH AMERICA.

PLACE.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
NOVA SCOTIA	1. Viscount Falkland	1845 August 19	Report on the Blue Book for 1844	1
NEW BRUNSWICK	2. Sir W. Colebrooke	1846 May 11	Report on the Blue Book for 1845	4
	3. Sir W. Colebrooke	June 26	Further Report on ditto	10
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	4. Lieut.-Governor Huntley	May 11	Transmitting Blue Book for 1845, and accompanying Explanatory Statement	12
NEWFOUNDLAND	5. Sir J. Harvey	1845 Oct. 25	Report on the Blue Book for 1844	15
BERMUDA	6. Governor Reid	1846 March 16	Forwarding Annual Statistical Returns and Report, 1845	17

No Report received from CANADA.

WEST INDIES.

	PLACE.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
	JAMAICA	7. Earl of Elgin	May 6	Transmitting Blue Book.—Remarks on the Condition and Prospects of the Colony	19
		8. Mr. Secretary Gladstone	June 18	Acknowledgment of the above Despatch	38
	HONDURAS	9. Earl of Elgin	May 9	Transmitting copy of a Despatch from Col. Fancourt	39
	BRITISH GUIANA	10. Governor Light	March 31	Forwarding Blue Book.—Governor's Journal of his Excursions through the Island	42
Government of the Windward Islands.	TOBAGO	11. Sir C. E. Grey	March 7	Encloses General Report on the State of the Island of Tobago, by Lieut.-Governor Græme	51
		12. Mr. Secretary Gladstone	April 24	Acknowledgment of the foregoing Despatch	55
	ST. VINCENT	13. Sir C. E. Grey	March 20.	Encloses General Report on the State of the Island of St. Vincent, by Lieut.-Governor Sir J. Campbell	55
		14. Mr. Secretary Gladstone	May 12	Acknowledgment of the above Despatch	78
		15. Sir C. E. Grey	May 5	Transmitting Additional Remarks of the Lieut.-Governor of St. Vincent	78
	ST. LUCIA	16. Sir C. E. Grey	April 2	General Report of the Condition of the Island of St. Lucia, by Lieut.-Colonel Torrens	81
		17. Mr. Secretary Gladstone	May 20	Answer to the foregoing Despatch	96

No Reports received from BARBADOS *and the* BAHAMAS.

	PLACE.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
Government of the Leeward Islands.	ANTIGUA	18. Acting Governor Cunningham.	April 27	Transmitting Blue Book—Remarks upon some of the Returns in it	97
		19. Mr. Secretary Gladstone	May 29	Acknowledgment of the above Despatch	99
	ST. CHRISTOPHER	20. Acting Governor Cunningham.	March 9	Report on the State and Prospects of the Island of St. Christopher, by Mr. President Claxton.	100
		21. Mr. Secretary Gladstone	April 24	Answer to the foregoing Despatch	102
	DOMINICA	22. Acting Governor Cunningham.	April 7	Transmitting Blue Book of the Island of Dominica, and Report thereon by Lieut.-Governor Macdonald	102

	PLACE.	No.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
				1846		
Government of the Leward Islands.	DOMINICA	23.	Mr. Secretary Gladstone	May 25	Acknowledgment of the above Despatch	105
	MONTSERRAT	24.	Acting Governor Cunningham.	March 4	Transmitting Blue Book for 1845, and Report thereon by Mr. President Baynes	105
	VIRGIN ISLANDS	25.	Acting Governor Cunningham.	May 22	Forwarding Blue Book of the Virgin Islands, and Report thereon by Mr. President Drummond Hay	114
	NEVIS	26.	Acting Governor Cunningham.	May 7	Transmitting Blue Book of the Island of Nevis.—Report by Mr. President Shortland	116
	THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA.					
	GIBRALTAR	27.	Sir R. Wilson	March 16	Observations on the Blue Book for Gibraltar	117
	MALTA	28.	Sir P. Stuart	April 14	General Report on the Finances and Affairs of the Island for 1845	118
	ST. HELENA	29.	Governor Trelawney	March 24	Observations on the Blue Book of the Island of St. Helena	124
	No Reports received from the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, SIERRA LEONE, GAMBIA, *and the* GOLD COAST.					
	AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.					
				1845		
	NEW SOUTH WALES	30.	Sir Geo. Gipps	May 8	Forwarding Blue Book for 1844, a Report thereon	126
	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	31.	Governor Grey	May 30	Transmitting Blue Book for 1844.—Remarks upon the present State and future Prospects of the Colony	133
	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	32.	Governor Hutt	March 28	Remarks on the Blue Book for 1844	135
				1846		
		33.	Mr. Secretary Gladstone	Jan. 14	Admission of Western Australian Timber into Her Majesty's Dockyards	139
				1845		
	NEW ZEALAND	34.	Governor Fitzroy	Aug. 30	Report on the general State of the Colony at the end of the year 1844	139
		35.	Governor Fitzroy	Aug. 30	Remarks on the State of the Colony	141
	No Report received from VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.					
	EASTERN COLONIES.					
				1846		
	MAURITIUS	36.	Sir W. Gomm	March 9	General Report upon the Condition of the Colony	141
	CEYLON	37.	Sir C. Campbell	April 14	Transmitting Blue Book for the year 1845.—Review of the Affairs of the Island	145
	HONG KONG	38.	Sir J. F. Davis	April 11	Transmitting Blue Book for the year 1845.—Report on the State of the Colony	147
	No Report received from the FALKLAND ISLANDS.					
	HELIGOLAND	39.	Lieut.-Governor Hindmarsh.	Feb. 26.	Transmitting Blue Book for 1845, and Report thereon	152

REPORTS

EXHIBITING THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

[The Report for Nova Scotia for 1845 not having been yet received, that for the year 1844 is substituted.]

(No. 343.) No. 1. No. 1.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Viscount Falkland to Lord Stanley.

My Lord, Government House, August 19, 1845.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this province for the year 1844, and Annual Report required to accompany the same.

I regret that it has not been in my power to forward these returns at an earlier period, in consequence of the indisposition and necessary absence of two of the clerks in the provincial Secretary's office for a considerable period, and the great pressure of business on its diminished establishment.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, (Signed) FALKLAND.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 1. Encl. in No. 1.

General Report to accompany the Blue Book of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton for the year ended 31st December, 1844.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.
The revenue for the year 1844 amounted to . . .	100,636	7	9⅓
Derived from the following sources:—			
Duties of Customs	23,154	19	6⅔
Colonial Import Duties	46,406	0	2⅓
Light Duties	4,792	12	7⅓
Queen's Casual Revenue . . £3,596 1 8⅔			
Proceeds of Crown Lands . . 1,471 10 7⅓			
	5,067	12	4
Provincial Paper Money issued	4,000	0	0
Deductions from Post-office Revenue	4,353	18	5
Bills on England towards support of Customs . .	3,734	7	6
Stipends of Clergymen paid from Military Chest .	3,262	10	0
Bills on England, same service	4,565	0	0
Ditto towards support of Sable Island Establishment	400	0	0
Minor sources	899	7	1⅓

The returns, compared with those of the preceding year, exhibit an increase of revenue under the respective heads of Customs, Colonial and Light Duties, Crown Lands, Provincial Paper Money Issues, and other sources, to the amount of 30,025*l.* 12*s.* 9⅓*d.*, and a decrease to the amount of 11,364*l.* 7*s.* 3⅓*d.*, principally under those of old Crown duties, deposits in savings' bank, loans, coin imported, and deductions from the revenue of the post-office.

The expenditure for the year 1844, including sums due for arrears of salaries to the Lieutenant-Governor and certain officers of the civil and judicial establishments, amounted to 96,355*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, namely,

	£.	s.	d.
Civil Establishment, including Customs	22,882	2	5⅓
Judicial Establishment	5,450	16	2⅔
Legislature	5,428	15	6
Ecclesiastical Establishment	7,827	10	0
Militia	383	6	1⅓
Pensions	821	1	9⅓
Miscellaneous	53,561	9	6⅔

NOVA SCOTIA.

Being an increase of 6,672*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* as compared with the preceding year, the principal heads of increase being those of the Civil Establishment, the Legislature, and Miscellaneous Expenditure, the particulars being mentioned in page 41 of the Book.

Civil Establishment.

The Civil Establishment consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Provincial Secretary, Provincial Treasurer, Surveyor-General, and Commissioners of Crown Lands for Nova Scotia Proper; ditto for Cape Breton, Collector of Customs, Collector of Colonial Duties, Superintendent of Mines, Harbour Master, and subordinate officers.

The whole expense of the establishment for the year 1844 was 22,882*l.* 2*s.* 5¼*d.*, including arrears of salaries for that year due to the Lieutenant-Governor, and such of the principal officers of the Establishment as are paid either wholly or in part from the Queen's Casual Revenue remaining unpaid in consequence of that fund being inadequate to the charges ordinarily borne upon it, the amount of those arrears being, in the year 1844, 1590*l.* in addition to 2016*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* accrued in the year 1843.

The charge for the Civil Establishment for 1844 was defrayed from the following sources, viz.:—

Provincial Treasury.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Appropriated permanently for the Customs Establishment	5,830	5	2
Granted by the Legislature	4,384	10	7¾

Casual Revenue.

Actual payments for the charges of the Year	2,308	5	6¾
Amount in arrear charged on this Fund	1,590	0	0

Crown Lands.

Proceeds arising from Sales	1,471	10	7¾

Post Office Revenue.

Deduction from that Fund	2,074	15	3
Bill on England for Services of Customs	3,734	7	6
From minor sources	1,488	7	9

The Judicial Establishment.

The Judicial Establishment comprehends the—

Court of Chancery.

This Court is similar in its constitution, powers, and mode of procedure to the Chancery Court in England. The Lieutenant-Governor is Chancellor *ex officio*. He is ordinarily assisted by the Master of the Rolls and four Masters in Chancery. No salary is attached to the office of Chancellor. His fees in 1844 amount to about 30*l.* The Master of the Rolls receives a salary of 650*l.* without fees. The Masters receive no salaries, but are entitled to fees regulated by law.

Court of Error.

The Lieutenant-Governor and Executive Council, constitute this Court, to which appeals lie from the Supreme Court, where the sum in dispute exceeds 300*l.* No business has been transacted in this Court during the year.

Supreme Court.

This Court consists of a Chief Justice and four Assistant Judges. It sits at Halifax, three times a-year, and in each of the counties of the province twice a-year, and exercises a general criminal and civil jurisdiction throughout the province.

The travelling expenses of the Judges when on circuit are defrayed by an allowance of one guinea per day to each, paid from the Provincial Treasury.

Courts of General Session of the Peace.

In constitution and practice, similar to the Courts of Quarter Sessions in England, but the power of trial by jury therein has been transferred to the Supreme Court.

Courts of Vice Admiralty.

The Judge of this Court is also the Master of the Rolls in Chancery. No salary is attached to the office. Very little business is transacted in this Court.

Court of Marriage and Divorce.

Consists of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Executive Council. The Lieutenant-Governor being President and the Chief Justice Vice President. Established by Provincial Act, 4 Vict., c. 13. No business transacted in this Court in 1844.

Courts of Probate.

The Provincial Act, 5 Vict., c. 32, establishes Courts for the Probate of Wills and granting Administrations in each county of the province. The Courts consist respectively of a Judge and Registrar, paid by fees.

The whole expense of the Judicial Establishment for the year 1844 was 5,450*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.*, inclusive of 1,428*l.*, charged on the Casual Revenue in arrear for 1844, in addition to 2,175*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* arrears accrued in 1843.

The charge of the Judicial Establishment for the year 1844 being defrayed as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Granted from the Provincial Treasury	3,028	0	9½
Paid from Casual Revenue	994	15	4½
Amount in arrear for 1844 charged in ditto	1,428	0	0

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

One bishop, one archdeacon, and 42 missionaries. Expense of the establishment, 7,827*l.* 10*s.*, defrayed by the Society for Propagating the Gospel.

Commerce.

Imports and Exports of Nova Scotia Proper and Cape Breton, the Year ended the 5th January, 1845.

IMPORTS.

	Value in Sterling.	Ships.	Tons.	Men.
	£.			
From Great Britain	344,286	144	46,133	..
West Indies	41,263	..	..	..
North America	168,213	1,898	133,719	..
British Colonies elsewhere	17,915			
United States of America	234,300	1,464	114,804	20,855
Foreign States	202,901	238	26,584	..
Total in 1844	1,008,878	3,744	321,240	20,855
Total in 1843	862,497	2,509	298,711	19,269

EXPORTS.

To Great Britain	78,227	124	38,026	..
West Indies	186,545	2,118	160,843	..
British North America	328,233	..	..	21,709
British Colonies elsewhere	17,880			
United States	96,115	1,549	125,234	..
Foreign States	37,318	67	7,378	..
Total in 1844	734,319	3,858	331,481	21,709
Total in 1843	710,165	3,624	304,880	19,970

Education.

Colleges.

There are four collegiate institutions in the province.

King's College at Windsor.

Founded in 1802, under a Royal Charter, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury being the patron. The Lieutenant-Governor, the Bishop of Nova Scotia, and other provincial officers, form a Board of Directors. The statutes of the college are similar to those of Oxford, but religious tests in regard to graduates have been removed many years. The institution is under the immediate management of a president, with a salary of 312*l.* A professor of mathematics, natural philosophy, and astronomy, with a salary of 176*l.*; and a lecturer in modern languages and literature, with a salary of 100*l.* There are 22 students, and in connexion with the college is an academy or preparatory school with about 23 scholars. The college is supported by temporary annual grants from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, amounting to 900*l.* sterling in 1844, and by an allowance of 400*l.* sterling per annum granted by a permanent Act of the Provincial Legislature.

Dalhousie College at Halifax

Is not at present in operation, two of the professors being dead, and the vacancies thus occasioned have not been supplied.

Three professorships,—students, none.

Acadia College at Horton.

Incorporated by Act of the Legislature in 1840, and under the control of the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society.

Three professors, 21 students.

St. Mary's College or Seminary at Halifax.

Established in 1841, and under the control of the Roman Catholic body.

Four professors, one teacher, forty students.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 2.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

(No. 40.) No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir W. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Fredericton, New Brunswick,
May 11, 1846.

SIR,

REFERRING to my Despatch (No. 31), dated the 27th of April, I have now the honour to submit my Report on the Blue Book for 1845, a duplicate of which is herewith transmitted.

TAXES, DUTIES, FEES, REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, PUBLIC WORKS.

The Financial Reports which I have made in the last five years would seem to render any further observations at this time unnecessary, were it not that the interests of the province require that the principles which have from time to time been recommended to attention should be kept in view, on any general revision of the system which may practically be accomplished.

In 1841-2, at a period of great financial difficulty, a proposal was made for restoring to the Government, so far as might be practicable, the control which it had exercised before the separation of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and the transfer of the Crown revenues.

At that period a very inadequate provision was substituted, in the practice of submitting every vote of the Assembly in supply to the Legislative Council for confirmation or rejection; an arrangement which imposed no check on the improvident expenditure which involved the province in debt, and necessitated the loan of 70,000*l.*, raised in the session of 1843.

As Members of the Assembly are appointed to the Executive Council, the importance of introducing some better system becomes the more urgent from the tendency of the present one to involve the Government in the discredit attaching to it, without any means of exercising the smallest control; and it may be confidently affirmed, from the experience of the past, that no measure would be more conducive to the welfare of the province, in the due regulation of its finances, and in establishing a constitutional relation between the Executive and Legislative bodies, than the concession to the Executive of the initiation of money votes, on the principle recognised in Canada, and in some other Colonies.

Vide Lord Stanley's Circular Despatch of June 28, 1843.

The important measure adopted by Her Majesty's Government in 1843 for restricting the provincial Legislatures from imposing discriminating duties on foreign trade, and the principles on which the alterations in the tariff were made in the previous year (1842), encouraged me to hope that further salutary changes might progressively be accomplished.

Lord Stanley's Despatch, No. 91, Aug. 19, 1842.

The ill effects of the discriminating duties imposed on the intercolonial trade have been so fully experienced, that I have taken frequent occasions to urge on Her Majesty's Government the importance of restricting them in future.

In the consideration of this subject it is only necessary to advert to the disposition of the provincial Legislatures to retaliate on each other when such duties are imposed, and the impracticability, along an extended inland and sea frontier and an imperfectly settled country, of preventing evasions of the law without incurring an expense which the revenue would not sustain.

If the duties thus unwisely imposed on the trade between the colonies and with the United Kingdom could progressively be removed, not only would the improvement of these provinces be greatly accelerated, but their connexion with the mother-country and each other be strengthened and cemented.

The Revenue Act of the present year merely reimposes the duties raised in 1845, with the exception of the duties on wheat, which have been taken off in consequence of the scarcity arising from the failure of the potato crop in the last year; and the tariff for 1846 is therefore liable, with this exception, to the objections already made to the same tariff of the preceding year.

In 1843, the net revenue raised from the provincial duties, exclusive of collec-

Vide Provincial Act, 5 Wm. IV., c. 49.

tions under special Acts, was 21,067*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*; in 1844, 36,246*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; and in 1845, 47,734*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* The net parliamentary duties have yielded, in the present year, 22,774*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, after deducting 4,250*l.*, the provincial allowance for the department. The charges of the Customs, being in all 7,080*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The casual and territorial revenues in 1845 were 27,821*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, amounting, with the customs' duties, to 98,330*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* On the other hand, the permanent and miscellaneous charges on these revenues, for which provision is not specially made, amounted in 1844 to 56,635*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, and in 1845 to 65,774*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, independently of the grants for by-roads; and as this amount includes the whole charge for the civil government of the province, for the pay and expenses of the legislative bodies, for colleges and schools, great roads, bounties, and various other miscellanies, it will be obvious that if some practicable reductions were to be made in these charges, and a moderate rate imposed on property to defray in part the expenses of works of a local nature, and for the support of parochial schools, according to the practice in the United States, the trade of the country might in a material degree be relieved from a burthen which seriously fetters and restrains it, discouraging commercial enterprise, and constituting in effect a charge upon the rural population in the supplies which they are obliged to purchase at advanced rates, when the duties are not evaded by smuggling.

REVENUE.	£.	s.	d.
Net Parliamentary Duties	22,774	5	3
Provincial Customs	47,734	14	2
Casual and Territorial Revenues	27,821	4	8
Total	£98,330	4	1

EXPENDITURE.			
Civil List	13,050	0	0
Pay and Expenses, Legislative Bodies	6,934	1	4
College and Schools	2,553	19	1
Penitentiary and Lunatics	2,211	14	8
Great Roads, exclusive of By-roads	8,691	6	0
Fish Bounties	4,205	1	5
Charities	5,112	9	1
Other Miscellanies	22,985	10	1
Total	£65,744	1	8

In 1842 and 1843, owing to the financial difficulties of the province, no funds were issued for by-roads; notwithstanding which some roads, for which grants had been made in 1842, but without funds being provided, were found to have been kept in sufficient repair by the effective application of the statute labour. The sums granted in 1845 for by-roads, amounted to 9,615*l.* 3*s.*, and in the present year to 12,162*l.*, distributed in a vast number of small grants throughout the country. In the last Session the Assembly has recognized a method of calling forth the resources of the country in the advances made for seed potatoes, which are repayable in labour on the roads. From the difficulty often experience by the labouring settlers in paying for their lands, a stimulus would be given to the settlement of the province, if certificates from the road contractors for labour duly performed in virtue of grants from the Assembly, were accepted in payment from land purchasers, a practice which also, as it is understood, obtains in the United States.

On the passing of the Civil List Act, in 1838, when the casual revenues were transferred to the province, the administration of the Crown domains was reserved to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the charges of which are detailed in a separate account. An important reduction on these charges was made in 1844, by the substitution of a moderate export duty on timber, in lieu of the "stumpage" collected on timber cut in the forests under license; the collection of which was attended with considerable expense and difficulty. If to the Crown Land department could be added a Surveyor of Roads, whose duty it would be to compile reports and surveys of the roads, much useful information would progressively be acquired for the Government and the Legislature, and the settlement of the country would be facilitated. The return at page 52, with the remarks appended, afford all the information which the Government at present possess regarding the provincial roads, on which such large sums are annually disbursed by supervisors and commissioners. Hitherto they have not been surveyed, nor the distances marked, and the situation of many is unknown to the department.

The military expenses charged upon the colony do not at present exceed 1000*l.*, but ample provision has been made for these expenses, if the services of the militia force should at any time be required.

Councils and Assembly.

The Executive Councillors named at page 64, having resigned in the present year, they have been succeeded by others. They derive no advantage, but an allowance charged on the land revenues for travelling expenses; and from the laborious executive duties undertaken by them, it were much to be desired that an annual stipend should be granted to them as in Canada. It would also enable them to afford greater time for the general business of the country, if they

NEW BRUNSWICK.

could be relieved from responsibility for the detailed administration of the Crown Land Department, the general superintendence being reserved to them. In the event of a vacancy hereafter in the office of Surveyor-General, I should recommend the revival of that of Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The expenses of the Legislative Council and Assembly amounting to 6934*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, as stated in the accounts (page 21), consist of an allowance of 16*s.* 8*d.* sterling a day, or 41*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling for each session, granted by the Assembly to each member of the former body for 10 years, in the year 1840, and an allowance of 12*s.* 6*d.* sterling per day to its own members, granted in 1843, for the term of the provincial Parliament, with travelling expenses to and from Fredericton, also for other contingent charges of the two Houses. It is open to considerable objection, that such a provision should be made for the members of the Legislative Council by a temporary Act, although the charge is inconsiderable, and intended only to defray their expenses while resident at the seat of government.

In the Civil Establishment, the only material alteration which has taken place within the last year has been in the separation of the clerkship of the Executive Council from the office of provincial Secretary and Registrar; the arrangements for the former office are still in abeyance, the duties being performed by a clerk from the provincial Secretary's, and one from the Crown Land Office, no sufficient provision having been made for establishing a separate Council Office. From the present constitution of the Executive Council, it would be impracticable to assign these duties to the Secretary and Registrar, who was formerly a member of the Board, but resigned in 1845.

In 1841 the provincial Auditor was, for the first time, required to audit the provincial accounts; he had previously confined his attention to the land revenue accounts. The Receiver-General continues to receive the gross proceeds of land sales, and other branches of the casual revenue, holding them in deposit till disbursed or paid over to the Treasurer, his duties are inconsiderable, while those of the audit department are laborious. These officers each receive 300*l.* sterling per annum. In 1841, the consolidation of the General and Provincial Customs were brought under consideration of Her Majesty's Government, such a measure having been proposed in the Legislature; and from the correspondence which passed in 1842–3 and 1844, of which a schedule is subjoined, it will be apparent that a material reduction of expense might be effected, and the public service greatly facilitated were it to be carried into effect. The charges of the Customs' department are too high for the amount of revenue now collected by it; and the collection of the provincial duties at St. John's could be very well added, which now engross a large portion of the time of the provincial Treasurer, to the prejudice of his primary duties, compelling him to reside at St. John's, instead of at the seat of Government. One objection of the Assembly to a measure of such obvious benefit, which would effect at once a reduction of expense, and afford facilities to merchants who are obliged to transact business at two offices, would appear to be the disturbance of a number of out-port officers, who, under the regulations of the Customs' department, might not be admissible to employment, and whom the assembly are indisposed to pension. In some cases, the offices are held jointly by the same person under both departments; and if the regulations were not to be strictly applied in such cases, and the provincial officers appointed to the Customs, the difficulty would be obviated and an important measure facilitated.

The removal of the Treasurer to Fredericton would enable him to render valuable assistance to the Government, and during the session to the Legislature, in financial matters: at present, he can with difficulty spare a day from his office at St. John's, to attend at Fredericton on the most urgent occasions. On the passing of an Act to give effect to such an arrangement, I think the Treasurer, who receives 480*l.* sterling a-year, under an annual grant of the Assembly, should be placed on the Civil List, and on the retirement of the Auditor and Receiver-General, occasion might be taken to improve the audit department, and to reduce that of the Receiver-General, transferring its duties to the Treasurer.

The establishment of the Customs amounts to 7080*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, sterling, employed in collecting, in 1843, 12,880*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, net revenue; in 1844, 19,367*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*;

NEW BRUNSWICK.

and in 1845, 22,774*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* The establishment of the provincial Treasurer amounts to 3929*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, although the whole expenses of the department is stated in the account at only 3592*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* Besides the general duties devolving on the Treasurer in paying numerous warrants, and in keeping the provincial accounts of receipts and disbursements which are annually made up for the Legislature, his department is charged with the collection of the provincial duties, which in the last year amounted to 79,294*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, including collections under special Acts. It may be observed, however, that the out-door establishment of the Customs is chiefly employed in protecting the revenue at St. John's and some other ports; and in any general revision, it might be desirable to increase the efficiency of this branch, unless a considerable reduction should be made in the duties of import, which, if simultaneously effected with the establishment of inland warehouses, whereby the payment of duties on winter supplies might be deferred, advantages would be given to the fair trader, which would not only promote the trade of the country, but augment the revenue by reducing the temptation to smuggling. The high salary of the present collector, 1200*l.* sterling per annum, would admit of being reduced to his successor; and on the retirement of the collector at St. Andrews, the establishment at that port, where there is very little trade, might be reduced, provision being made for warehousing at Fredericton, St. Stephens, Dorchester, Miramichi, Dalhousie, and other places. From the experience of the collector of St. Andrews in the warehousing department, he would be well calculated to superintend the warehousing arrangements. The advantages of extending this system throughout the province were pointed out in my Despatch, No. 71, dated the 25th July, 1843; and I hope that any amendment which may be required in the statute to facilitate the extension of the system throughout the province may be effected. The opportunity which it would afford to the inhabitants of the interior, and especially the farming and lumbering classes, to supply themselves from the depôts that would be formed, without resorting to the smuggler, or depending on supplies sent up the rivers by merchants at the end of the summer season, and before the navigation is closed for the winter, would be of incalculable advantage to the country.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ordinary Provincial Revenue	47,734	14	2
Export Timber Duty	18,146	4	8
Lighthouse Duty	4,009	9	8
Sick and Disabled Seamen's	1,844	9	7
Pass. and Emigrant	1,235	2	0
Loan Act	7,708	9	0
	£80,738	9	1
Deduct Commission	1,444	2	5
Net Revenue	£79,294	5	8

Pensions.

On the subject of pensions, it is much to be regretted that no provision was made for the superannuation of judges and of old and deserving officers, when the Crown revenues were transferred to the province. The interests of the public service would be greatly promoted if such a fund were to be established by an Act of the Assembly, which would provide for the limitation of the number and amount of pensions to be granted, and the conditions and terms of service which should entitle the functionaries to claim them. A large sum is annually granted by the Assembly, in numerous small grants, to widows of old soldiers, and others, the details of which have not been inserted in the Blue Book, but the amount is included under the head of Charities, in the General Account.

Population.

These returns are taken from the census of 1840; and, assuming from the previous census in 1824 and 1834 an increase at 5 per cent. per annum, the population may be estimated in the present year at 206,601; some abatement from this estimate should be made for emigration to the United States in the last five years.

Ecclesiastical Return.

In the Established Church of England some additional churches have been opened, and clergymen ordained to them by the Bishop of Fredericton, and measures are in progress to obtain more general support to the Church from the members of the communion throughout the province, by the organization of a society, and the raising of subscriptions within the diocese. Some churches have also been specially endowed, through the liberal support of wealthy persons in aid of the contributions of the congregations.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The establishments in connexion with the Roman Catholic, Scottish Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Baptist communions are included in these returns; but the alterations are not noticed, as the returns have not been regularly received, and from the number of mixed marriages, it would be impossible to depend on the relative proportions given of each denomination.

Education.

In the legislative session of 1845, an Act was passed for amending the charter of King's College, which, with a further Act passed in the session of the present year, are under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. No alteration has yet been made in the foundation or in the statutes of the College; but the College Council is at present engaged, on the suggestion of the Bishop, as Visitor of the College, in considering the practicability of revising them to advantage. These suggestions relate to the enlarging the range of studies in the College, augmenting its resources, and extending its usefulness. The subject of education has engaged the attention of the Legislature in the two last sessions; but I regret that the recommendation of the Inspectors of Schools, in favour of the establishment of a model and training school, has not led to any provision being made for such an institution.

Besides the grammar-school attached to King's College, and supported out of the endowment, there are six grammar-schools and 507 parish-schools under license, and to which a public contribution is made. There is no system of instruction prescribed. The qualifications of the parochial teachers, are generally very limited: they are subject to an examination by a Board of Education in each county, on whose certificate they are licensed. These licenses are to teach in the parish where they are employed, and are only transferred on certificate of conduct from the trustees of schools in the parish, and, when practicable, from a clergyman or minister of the congregation to which the children or a majority of them belong. The appointment of inspectors, and the establishment of a training-school, and by means of it of other model-schools in the several counties, I consider to be necessary for the improvement of the system, and the correction of its acknowledged defects; and I hope, for the sake of the rising generation, that provision will be made for these in the next session of the Legislature.

Exchanges; Monies, Weights, and Measures.

It is much to be regretted that a general revision of the monetary system of the colonies should not have been effected by Parliament. The continuance of nominal currencies, having reference to no acknowledged standard, and originating in the English denominations given to Spanish coins no longer current, but which circulated in the colonies on their first settlement, is an anomaly which was corrected in the United States after their separation by establishing a dollar currency, divisible into cents. The establishment of British sterling as the money of account, as a general measure, would be attended with great advantage to the commercial classes, and tend to simplify transactions with the United Kingdom and also with the United States. It may be objectionable to make gold the standard of the colonies, where silver for the most part circulates; and by a slight alteration in the value of the English copper coins, reducing the value of the halfpenny to the value of $\frac{1}{240}$th part of a shilling, $\frac{1}{1200}$th of a half-crown, and $\frac{1}{2400}$th of a crown-piece, calculations would be as much facilitated as they are in the United States, by the substitution of dollars and cents. The difference between the provincial currency and sterling is $11\frac{1}{9}$ per cent. The amount of bank paper in circulation in 1845 is returned at 225,000*l.* currency. The amount returned in 1840 and 1841 was 350,000*l.* In 1842, owing to commercial embarrassment and the decline of credit, it fell to 110,000*l.*, in 1843 to 72,300*l.*, and 1844 the amount was 80,000*l.*

The banking system in the province is not on a satisfactory footing; and it is to be regretted that the proposal for establishing a provincial bank was not entertained by the Legislature, and that none of the banks now established, afford any accommodation to the agricultural classes. As before observed, farmers, unable to obtain cash credits or other advances, have not only been restricted in extending their operations depending on hired labour, but in remote districts are discouraged from seeking markets for their produce, when they are often reduced to barter.

Imports and Exports.

It will be observed that there has been a large increase of imports in the last year, consequent upon augmented exports, chiefly of timber and deals, to Great Britain, and the demand for supplies for the lumbering population. By the bounties granted to the fisheries, some encouragement has been given to the export of cured fish. It will be seen that the number of ships which entered the ports in 1845 amounted to 3,175, the aggregate tonnage of which were 457,120, giving employment to 20,890 seamen. The number which cleared outwards was 3121, of 486,889 tons, and employing 21,550 seamen.

Agriculture.

The agricultural returns are so imperfect as not to call for any particular observation. The price of imported supplies in the present year will be diminished by the reduction of the duties on wheat.

Manufactures, Mines, and Minerals.

The encouragement given to the erection of water-mills has led to the establishment of a great number throughout the province, for the sawing of lumber and grinding wheat.

Ship-building is carried on to a considerable extent at some ports.

Some mining operations are in progress for the supply of manganese, a mineral which abounds in various parts of the province.

Hitherto, from want of capital, no effective undertaking has been engaged in for rendering the extensive coal-fields productive; but it is hoped that the introduction of railroads, which will traverse them, may afford a means of accomplishing this desirable object.

Grants of Land.

The regulations passed in 1843 for the granting of lands have, in some degree, promoted the settlement of the country; but a province so entirely covered with dense forest, and the more valuable lands of which are only accessible by means of roads, to be opened at great expense and labour, must depend on the application of resources which are generally beyond the reach of individuals, and which, if applied in so severe a climate, would not make any return for several years. Where roads are opened, experienced settlers accustomed to the country are found to take up lands; but to require payment for them, except by returns of labour in opening the roads, can only operate as a tax on the effective settlers, and retard the improvement of the country. A tax on wild lands, held unproductively, and applied to the opening of roads and the establishment of schools, would promote the settlement of the country by an improved population, who are unwilling to lose for themselves and their children the advantages of social and civilized life in settling in the wilderness.

The opening of railways will greatly tend to effect this desirable object; a flourishing settlement may be expected to be formed at each railway station, encouraged by a market for supplies, and the employment that would be afforded for artisans and labourers.

Gaols and Prisons.

The observations I have from time to time made on the state of the gaols in New Brunswick, it is unnecessary to recapitulate. In 1842 the opinion of the Prison Commissioners in England on the state of the gaols were laid before the Legislature, whose attention has been chiefly directed to the improvement of the provincial Penitentiary at St. John, which is still imperfect in its arrangements, especially for the accommodation of female prisoners, and for security of the male prisoners employed in out-door labour within a palisade enclosure. It would be desirable, as far as practicable, to introduce in all prisons the statutory rules in force in English prisons; and some attention has been given to these, where new prisons have been erected.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The offences which demand especial notice are not numerous. Infant-murder I apprehend to be of frequent occurrence, from the circumstances under which the bodies of infants are often found; but in aggravated cases it has been found difficult to bring offenders to justice. This does not proceed from indifference to crime, but a reluctance to expose the mothers to severe punishment, where other parties are believed to have been implicated, who may merit in an equal, and perhaps in a greater, degree the severity of the law. There is also a growing repugnance to capital punishment, and an evident necessity for the substitution of effective secondary punishments in cases of aggravated homicide. An Act has been passed in the last session of the Legislature to enable the Judges to award longer times of imprisonment than three years in such cases; but as I shall have other occasions to notice this subject, I will make no further observations on it in this place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

SCHEDULE of DESPATCHES on the subject of the Consolidation of the Provincial Treasurer's and Customs' Departments.

1. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord John Russell, No. 28, of June 21st, 1841.
2. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord Stanley, No. 75, of Nov. 12, 1841.
3. Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke, No. 21, of Dec. 9, 1841.
4. Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke, No. 31, Jan. 29, 1842.
5. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord Stanley, No. 24, March 22, 1842.
6. Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke, No. 146, April 12, 1843.
7. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord Stanley, No. 71, of July 25, 1843.

No. 3.

(No. 60.) No. 3.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir W. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE, dated Fredericton, New Brunswick, June 26, 1846.

HAVING, with my Despatch, No, 51, dated June 12, forwarded several additional returns which had been omitted in the Blue Book for 1845, I have now the honour in transmitting the duplicate to submit some further observations upon them as a part of my Report of the 11th May, No. 40.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The remarks of the Surveyor-General on the subject of Roads have originated in the reference to his Department of a number of Reports made by the Supervisors and Commissioners in pursuance of my instructions in the last year.

In the Session of 1842 I proposed to the Assembly a revision of the Road Laws, with a view to check the abuses which had obtained, and to regulate the expenditure on such routes under efficient superintendence of a Board of Works; but as no change was effected, and the Government being without funds, the sums granted in that year for roads were not expended till 1844, after the negociation of a loan in the Session of 1843.

By the provincial laws, Road Commissioners are annually appointed in every parish by the County Sessions, who have charge of the parish roads, with authority to direct the application of the statute labour, which the inhabitants are bound to perform annually. This labour may be commuted for a money payment of 2*s*. sterling for each day's labour. This rate, amounting to an average of four days labour for the adult male population in each year, would be adequate to keep the parish roads in repair if effectively applied; but, as the parishes depend so much on public appropriations for the roads

it is negligently exacted, and complaints are often made by the Government Commissioners and Supervisors that its application, under the authority of Local Commissioners, is, in many cases, injurious to the roads. In the years 1842 and 1843, when no funds were issued, as observed in my Report, the statute labour was more effectively applied to the repairs of the roads; and if the appropriations of public money were to be limited to the opening of new roads through the forest lands, and construction of bridges where the inhabitants are too poor to execute these works for themselves, and if the grants were made upon proper surveys, and estimates previously made, the settlement of the country would be promoted, and the objections to the present system, in a great degree, be obviated.

Measures are now in progress to acquire information respecting the roads through the Surveyor General's Department, which it is hoped will lead to the adoption of an improved system, and the instructions recently given with this object are appended.

Canadian Disputed Territory Fund.

This fund has arisen from the necessity of seizing timber cut without license in the territory in dispute between Canada and New Brunswick, and which has been re-leased to the parties on payment of a certain rate per ton, which has been imposed on them as a check to the practice of employing lumbering parties on the Crown domains—a regulation in force throughout the province, and from which the territory in question cannot be exempt until the question of boundary be definitively settled.

Loan Fund.

This fund has been raised by a duty imposed in 1843 on British and Foreign importations, to provide for the redemption of the debt contracted previous to the year 1841, and which will be liquidated by instalments in 14 years.

Civil List Fund.

This fund was established by a Provincial Act (1837), whereby, in consideration of the transfer to the province of the casual and territorial revenues of the Crown, a Civil List was granted of 14,500*l.* currency, or 13,050*l.* sterling. Some reductions having subsequently been made in the salaries of provincial officers a surplus has been created, which is applicable to provincial objects, on the consent and approval of Her Majesty's Government. It is very desirable that a portion of this surplus should be set apart to provide a pension fund for retiring judges and civil officers.

Emigrant Fund.

This fund is raised under a Provincial Act from a tax of one dollar on each emigrant arriving in the province, and is intended to defray certain expenses incidental to their condition on their first arrival,

From the tenor of the remarks of the Provincial Secretary it will be seen the current receipts of the fund have been considered applicable to the liquidation of a debt antecedently contracted by advances made to parishes on their accounts rendered to the Assembly; but a question has been raised how far the funds admit of being otherwise applied, than to the relief of those by whom they have been contributed within the year, and as the law officers have so construed the provincial Act, the treasurer has not felt himself authorized to discharge the warrants of appropriation for antecedent years, without special authority, and the parochial authorities have in some cases declined to make further advances.

It is well known to the emigrants, who have arrived in considerable numbers in the present year, and in circumstances requiring prompt attention to their health and comfort, that large sums have been collected from them, and as these

NEW BRUNSWICK.

funds would be fully adequate under an uniform system of management to their effective relief, I hope that a better regulation for their application will be adopted in future years.

No particular observations are called for on the other statements which were omitted in the Blue Book, except in regard to the duties of the Emigrant Agent (Return No. 14) at St. John's, who receives 100*l.* sterling a-year, chargeable on the Civil List; and considering the nature and extent of the duties at that port, and the responsibility attaching to them, it will not be practicable in future years to provide for them, unless the salary of the office should be increased, and which would be justly chargeable on the surplus of the Civil List Fund.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

(No. 29.) No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir H. V. HUNTLEY to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
May 11, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1845, together with an explanatory statement as required by Earl Ripon's circular Despatch of 10th January, 1830.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. V. HUNTLEY, Lieut-Gov.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 4.

Enclosure in No. 4.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT to accompany the Blue Book for Prince Edward Island.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The civil establishment of the island consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, Chief Justice, Attorney-General, Secretary, Registrar, and Clerk of the Council, Surveyor-General, Provost Marshal, and Clerk of the Crown, whose salaries are voted by the Imperial Parliament.

By a colonial statute of the 16th Geo. III., cap. 1, the above officers are entitled to receive certain fees for particular services, a detailed account of which will be found on reference to page 7. The fees attached to the office of secretary and registrar and clerk of the council are paid into the colonial treasury, under the Act of 3rd Vic., cap. 27, a commuted allowance being received by that officer in lieu thereof.

There are also a collector of the customs, a landing-waiter, and a clerk to the collector at the port of Charlotte Town, whose salaries are paid out of the duties collected under Acts of the Imperial Parliament (see pages 78 and 80). There are likewise five sub-collectors of the customs at the outports of Cascumpeque, Richmond Bay, Bedeque, Three Rivers, and Colville Bay respectively, who are appointed by the Commissioners of Customs, but whose salaries are paid by the colony. In addition to the officers already named, there are others on the civil establishment of the colony who are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and paid for their services out of the colonial revenue—these are the treasurer, who receives a salary of 450*l.* per annum; the collector of impost at Charlotte Town, who receives a salary of 230*l.* per annum; eleven collectors of impost at the different out-harbours, who are paid for their services by a per centage on the duties collected by them respectively; a solicitor-general, and a registrar in Chancery, who receive no salary, being remunerated for their services by certain fees attached to their respective offices.

There is a sub-inspector and adjutant-general of militia, who receives a salary from the colony of 67*l.* 10*s.* per annum; and there is a wharfinger and harbour-master at Charlotte Town, who receives a salary of 54*l.* per annum; there are also various other offices of minor importance, the holders of which are paid out of the resources of the colony, and whose united salaries for the past year amounted to the sum of 446*l.*, as detailed in page 21.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year 1845 amounted to 14,651*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, independently of the parliamentary grant of 3070*l.*, and of the sum of 744*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, part of a grant out of the proceeds of Crown lands for the erection of a lunatic asylum and house of industry. The colonial revenue is principally derived from an impost of 10*d.* currency per gallon upon all wines and spirits, and 2*d.* per gallon upon ale, porter, and strong beer, imported into the island under two permanent colonial enactments of 25th Geo. III., cap. 4, and 35th Geo. III., cap. 10; the amount received under these Acts is 1,143*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*, and is placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for making and repairing public roads, &c.; an additional impost of 1*s.* 2*d.* currency per gallon upon wines and spirits, 2*d.* per lb. upon unmanufactured, and 4*d.* per lb. upon manufactured, tobacco; 4*d.* per lb. upon tea; 5*s.* per barrel upon flour; 4*s.* per barrel upon corn and oatmeal; 4*s.* per cwt. upon meat salted or cured; 5*s.* per cwt. upon lard, butter, cheese, bread, and refined sugar; 2*s.* per cwt. upon coffee; 2*d.* per lb. upon upper, 1*d.* per lb. upon harness, and ½*d.* per lb. upon sole leather; 2*s.* 6*d.* per M upon boards; 20*s.* each upon horses, 15*s.* each upon neat cattle, except cows, and an ad valorem duty varying from five to twenty per cent upon certain goods, wares, and merchandize imported into the island, under an annual colonial enactment; the same Act imposes a duty of 8*d.* currency per gallon on spirits distilled in the island; the amount of revenue under the above Act was 9166*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* An assessment of 4*s.* currency upon every 100 acres of unimproved, and 2*s.* upon every 100 acres of improved land in the several townships in the island; 4*s.* upon each unimproved, and 2*s.* upon each improved town lot, water lot, common lot, and pasture lot in the town and royalty of Charlotte Town; 2*s.* 8*d.* upon each unimproved, and 1*s.* 4*d.* upon each improved town lot, water lot, common lot, and pasture lot, in the towns and royalties of George Town and Prince Town, imposed for ten years from the signification of the royal allowance in 1839, by a colonial enactment of the 7th Will. IV., cap. 31, during which time Her Majesty's claim to quit-rents is suspended; the produce of this Act in 1845 was 1626*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*

Imperial duties collected under statutes of the Imperial Parliament, paid into the colonial Treasury, amounted to 891*l.* over and above the salaries of the officers of the Customs, and other disbursements of the establishment.

The foregoing form the principal sources of revenue; besides which there is a duty payable upon licences to retail spirituous liquors, a tonnage duty upon vessels for the support of light-houses, and maintaining buoys and beacons in the harbours of the island.

The revenue of 1845 exceeded the revenue of 1844 by 1351*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, which excess has arisen from increased consumption of dutiable articles.

The parliamentary grant of 3070*l.* is appropriated to the payment of the different public officers' salaries, who are borne on the parliamentary estimates, and a pension to Charles Douglas Smith, Esq., the late Lieutenant-Governor of the island, as detailed in page 19; the other items of expenditure will be seen upon reference to pages 18, 20, 22, 24.

The expenditure of 1845 was less than that of 1844 by 307*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, although it exceeded the revenue of the year by the sum of 3572*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, and thus increased the public debt of the island to the sum of 27,270*l.*, bearing interest at 6*l.* per centum per annum. This continued excess of expenditure over the available resources of the colony, and the serious consequences to be apprehended from it, have been a source of much anxiety to me throughout my administration of the government; and I have not ceased, as opportunities have offered, to recommend to the House of Assembly the necessity of exercising the strictest economy in providing for the public service, and not only to keep the expenditure within the limits of the revenue, but also to make provision for the gradual redemption of the liabilities of the island. The heaviest item in the expenditure of 1845 is public buildings, 5438*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; of this sum there was expended on the colonial building in course of erection at Charlotte Town, 3698*l.* 18*s.*, and 787*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* on the lunatic asylum and house of industry; the other items of expenditure are chiefly as follow:—Civil establishment, 5230*l.*; roads, bridges, and public wharves, 3295*l.* 6*s.*; expenses of the Legislature, 1383*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; district schools, 932*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; mails, 1129*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; interest on Treasury warrants, 1581*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*; Crown prosecutions, 362*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*; expenses of jails, 457*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; public printing and stationery, 342*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*; agricultural societies, 270*l.*; grants to lunatics and paupers, 285*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; buoys and beacons, 112*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*; and bounties on the exportation of cod-fish, 108*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

Judicial Establishment.

The judicial establishment of the island consists of a Chief Justice, whose salary is voted by the Imperial Parliament (see page 82), and two assistant Judges, who have no salary or other emoluments, except what may arise from a few trifling fees for administering oaths, taxing bills of costs, &c; the assistant Judges are not professionally educated.

The Supreme Court sits four times a-year in Charlotte Town; viz., on the first Tuesday in January, the first Tuesday in May, the last Tuesday in June, and the last Tuesday in October; twice a-year at George Town; viz., on the second Tuesday in March, and the third Tuesday in July; and twice a-year at Saint Eleanor's; viz., the first Tuesday in June, and the first Tuesday in October. To defray his travelling expenses upon these occasions the Chief Justice receives a colonial allowance of 90*l.* a-year.

The Chief Justice also presides in the Instance Court of Vice-Admiralty.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The Lieutenant-Governor presides in the Court of Chancery, the Criminal Court of Vice-Admiralty, and in the Court of Marriage and Divorce.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

This establishment consists of five clergymen, stationed respectively at Charlotte Town, George Town, Saint Eleanor's, Crapaud, and Milton. The rector of Charlotte Town, who is also Ecclesiastical Commissary, receives 100*l.* a-year from the Imperial Parliament, 100*l.* a-year from the Society for Propagation of the Gospel, and 36*l.* a-year as officiating chaplain to the garrison, besides surplice fees. He has no parsonage house, but his parishioners contribute about 70*l.* a-year in lieu thereof.

The other four clergymen are wholly supported by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, who have also liberally contributed to the erection of all the churches in the island.

About half the population consists of Roman Catholics. The different religious denominations, from the census taken in 1841, were as follow:—Roman Catholics, 24,430; members of the Church of Scotland, 12,006; members of the Church of England, 5707; dissenters from the Church of Scotland, 3089; Wesleyan Methodists, 5421; Baptists, 1609; other persuasions, 772; total population, 47,034. The present population may be estimated at 56,000.

Education.

There is an academy in Charlotte Town, established under an Act of the Colonial Legislature of 10 Geo, 4, c. 9, and endowed with 270*l.* a-year. The masters are appointed by certain trustees, and were increased from two to three by the Act of 6 Vict., c. 21. The head master receives thereunder 135*l.* a-year, the second master 90*l.* a-year, and the third master 45*l.* a-year in addition to the tuition money paid by the students, which is divided as follows—one half to the head master, one-third to the second master, and one-sixth part to the third master; there are also apartments in the academy for the two senior masters.

There is also a National School in Charlotte Town, the master of which receives 31*l.* 10*s.* annually from the Colonial Government.

Besides the above-named establishments, there are 109 District Schools in different sections of the island, the masters of which, having previously undergone examinations by a Board of Education, established by law for that purpose, receive an annual allowance from the Colonial Government, varying in amount from 4*l.* 10*s.* to 22*l.* 10*s.*, according to the qualifications of the teachers and the locality of the schools; the sum thus expended in 1845 is already stated to have been 932*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* A visitor of schools, appointed for that purpose, has the superintendence of the District Schools, visiting them periodically, and he is required to lay a report of his proceedings before the two Houses of Legislature at their annual meeting; for this service the school visitor receives a salary of 67*l.* 10*s.*

Commerce.

The commerce of the island consists in the exchange of its agricultural productions—timber and manufactured deals, ships built in the island, and a small quantity of fish—for British manufactures and other articles of domestic consumption. To encourage the exportation of fish, which abound on the shores of the island, a small bounty is granted by the Colonial Legislature. The mercantile intercourse is chiefly carried on with Great Britain and Ireland and the neighbouring colonies of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. (See pp. 133 to 158.

The returns of imports and exports cannot be deemed to be a direct criterion of the extent of the trade of the colony. Shipping, in the completion of which a considerable portion of the imports is necessarily required, is entirely omitted in the value of the exports; and at present it forms a much more important item of export than any other production of the island. The number of vessels built during the past year exceeding 9000 tons, which at 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton, would be equal to 49,500*l.*

The extent of the manufactures in the island is limited: there is a coarse and useful cloth made and worn by the inhabitants, and a mill in the vicinity of Charlotte Town, where the business of fulling, dressing, and dying it is carried on; the inhabitants also manufacture linens and flannels for domestic purposes, tan and dress leather, &c. An iron foundry has been established in Charlotte Town. This foundry is extremely beneficial in the variety of its operations and general superiority of the work performed there, and is altogether an establishment very creditable to its enterprising owner.

Agriculture.

The chief permanent dependence of the island is its agriculture, for which the soil is well adapted and easily worked. The Legislature assists its operations by grants of money, in aid of importing improved breeds of stock, implements of husbandry, seeds, &c. Agricultural societies are also formed in different parts of the island, whose attention is given to the same important considerations, for the quantity of cultivated land, the extent of its productions, and other information relative thereto. I beg to refer to the Statistical Return of 1841.

GRANTS OF LAND.

The quantity of land remaining in the Crown is very limited; that in the townships being too remote for present settlement, or otherwise of an inferior quality, and is, in consequence, but little sought after; the Crown lands in the towns and royalties are more valuable. By reference to p. 166 it will appear that none of the former, and but six acres of the latter description of land were granted in 1845.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works in progress are, the Colonial Building, which is in course of erection in Charlotte Town, and upon which the sum of 10,440*l.* has been expended, and a building in the vicinity of Charlotte Town, as an asylum for lunatics and indigent persons, now nearly completed, and upon which the sum of 1350*l.* has been expended.

H. V. HUNTLEY, Lieut.-Governor.

Government House, May 1, 1846.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

[The Report for 1845 not having been yet received, that for 1844 is substituted.]

(No. 76.) No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. HARVEY, K.C.B., to Lord STANLEY.

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
October 25, 1845.

MY LORD,

IN transmitting my Report upon the Blue Book for the year 1844, which may be regarded as the first of a series of more detailed statements than those by which it has been heretofore the practice to accompany the annual transmission of that document from this colony, I would beg to offer the following observations.

Upon the examination of the more prominent portion of the information embodied in these important statistical returns for the last ten years, the following results are obtained:—

1st. That the population of Newfoundland has increased during that period by one-third, viz., from 75,000 to nearly 100,000 souls.

2nd. That its trade and revenues have also progressively advanced during that period.

3rd. That its improvement in respect to the construction of roads and bridges, in the extension of religious instruction and general education, in the cultivation of the soil, in the numbers of cattle and horses, in the erection of houses and public edifices, and generally in all that tends to augment the happiness, comfort, and embellishment of life, has increased and is increasing in a ratio the extent of which is not to be calculated.

4th. That these improvements have occurred mainly within the period of the last few years.

5th. That their chief causes are to be found in the re-action which followed the restoration to the colony of a form of constitution which, though somewhat modified, was still, to a certain extent, a representative one,—in the harmonious and satisfactory working of that form of government and the consequent willing application of the surplus revenues of the island to purposes of general improvement and public utility,—to which may be added the surrender by her Majesty to the colony of the waste lands of the Crown, and the impetus given to the cultivation of the soil, and generally to agricultural pursuits by the local Legislature.

To the foregoing observations I feel it to be due to the loyal inhabitants of this colony to add that, by the manner in which they have co-operated with the Queen's representative in extracting all practicable benefit from this

NEWFOUNDLAND.

modified form of constitution they have, in my opinion, acquired a strong claim to the restoration, without restriction of the usual form of colonial representative government.

I have, &c.,

The Right Honourable Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Encl. in No. 5.

Enclosure in No. 5.

REPORT to accompany the BLUE BOOK of 1844.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

REVENUE.

1844	1843	Remarks.
£.	£.	
Imperial . . 5,375	7,193	This decline is occasioned by the repeal of the Acts prior to to the 18th Geo. III.
Colonial . . 49,331	39,612	These duties were increased to meet the anticipated falling off in the imperial duties from the alteration of the tariff.

The light dues continue at about the same amount, and are sufficient to meet all ordinary expenses of four most useful light-houses, as well as to defray the interest on the loans raised for their construction.

The other chief source of revenue is the proceeds of Crown lands, which will doubtless increase in amount from the great impulse which agricultural pursuits have acquired, and the consequent addition to the comforts of the people.

The sum of 4700*l.* raised by "loan" is a portion of the 20,000*l.* which the expiration of the Revenue Act of 1841 made it necessary to borrow.

EXPENDITURE.

1844	1843	Remarks.
£. 66,380	£. 39,830	The principal increase is in grants for roads, and for the promotion of education, from both which branches of expenditure the greatest benefits are being derived by the people.

IMPORTS.

770,016	741,965	Showing an increase of £28,000.

EXPORTS.

882,905	960,461	A decrease of £77,000, partly owing to the want of shipping to carry away produce.
No. 1,130	No. 1,171	Ships inwards.

POPULATION.

A census just taken shows the population to be upwards of 96,000.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The erection of Newfoundland into a separate see, and the untiring exertions of both the late and present bishop, have led to the building of churches, the increase of missionaries, and the consequent diffusion of religious knowledge. Many parts of the island are, however, still destitute of these advantages which the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, by which our establishments have been hitherto supplied, are unable to afford; but a spirit of liberality has been awakened amongst the members of the church, which, it is hoped, will enable the bishop to provide missionaries where most needed.

EDUCATION.

Although much remains to be done as regards education, yet great efforts have been made to diffuse widely its advantages. In addition to the extensive operations of the Newfoundland School Society, the colonial legislature has endowed classical academies in St. John's, Harbour Grace, and Carbonear, the three principal towns, besides granting upwards of 5000*l.* for elementary schools.

In summing up this report, I feel it my pleasing duty to state that, looking to the trade of this colony, based on a never-failing produce, to the generally prosperous condition of the people, much augmented by their abstinence from the use of intoxicating drinks, to the absence of crime, and to the comforts which the cultivation of the soil has added to the benefits derived from the fisheries. I believe that a more generally happy, contented, and, I am sure, a more loyal people are not to be found in the wide range of Her Majesty's dominions.

BERMUDA.

(No. 10.) No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Bermuda, March 16, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, the Annual Statistical Returns and Report for Bermuda.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, (Signed) W. REID.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 6.

(Extract.)

REPORT to accompany the BERMUDA BLUE BOOK, 1845.

AFTER having made Reports to accompany the Annual Statistical Returns, at considerable length for five successive years, I have very few observations now to add.

The spirit for improving the islands continues unabated, and the advantage to the inhabitants of growing food for themselves, becomes every year more apparent. The wages of artificers and labourers are higher now than at any former period. The consequence is that these classes, but more particularly artificers, are rising in condition. There is room both for intelligent artificers, and skilful farm-labourers, and gardeners. This is owing to the resources of the islands being developed, and good land, which has long been lying neglected, coming into cultivation, and producing food and profitable returns. The culture of the orange and lemon, which is proceeding favourably, offers an inducement to gardeners to settle here. But what is most wanted is skill. The abolition of slavery is one of the causes which has produced this favourable transition state, as regard productive industry, within the islands. I before explained, that the former existence of slavery, by leading masters, to rate most of their slaves as artificers, all gradually came to be very indifferent tradesmen, and this is the reason why intelligent and skilful European tradesmen, farm-servants, and gardeners, who may settle here, ought to prosper.

Amongst the suggestions made last year, I recommended that a mechanic's school should be formed at the dockyard for the improvement of the native artificers engaged there. I stated, that in case of war occurring, the want of artificers would be sorely felt at the dockyard. A well-conducted practical school, maintained at the dockyard, would produce a beneficial influence which would be felt throughout the islands, and therefore afford increased resources to this arsenal. If placed under the engineer in charge of Naval works, it would cost but little to carry out this proposal; and it would in the end, I think, be a measure of much economy to the Naval service.

The amount of shipping remains stationary. The revenue covers the expenditure, and an *ad valorem* duty of 3 per cent. on imported articles in 1843, has been reduced to 1½ per cent.

Amongst the oldest laws in the Bermudas, was one regulating weights and measures, but it had long fallen into disuse. By that law, the standards were to be the same as those of England in 1704. Weights of this standard had ceased to be made. Those of the Imperial standard only could be procured from England. By degrees, therefore, both the old and the new had come to be used together. The oldest had lost weight, and there could be no exactness in retail trade. To remedy this an Act has been passed, assimilating the weights and measures to the Imperial standard. This Act will come into operation on the 1st of January, 1847, after which, the money, weights and measures will be the same as in Great Britain and Ireland.

BERMUDA.

In the annual Report for 1841, and again in 1844, I pointed out the necessity for forming reservoirs of fresh water for the fleet, and how they could be easily made; but little progress has yet been made on this important matter, and large fleets could not yet find a sufficiency of water at Bermuda.

Of public works going on at Bermuda the most interesting is that of removing reefs by means of divers in diving-dresses. This work, although conducted as a naval work, is now, by permission of the Master-General of the Ordnance, directed by Lieut.-Colonel Barry, Commanding Royal Engineer, and the funds for it are furnished by the colony.

At the narrowest part of the entrance to St. George's Harbour there lay a rock exactly mid-channel, which was a great impediment to vessels entering. Portions of it consisted of a conglomerate of broken shells and sand, cemented by lime-stone, whilst other portions closely resemble the hydraulic lime previously found in St. David's Island about the level of the sea, and noticed in the geological remarks in the annual Report of 1843. Finding this lime-stone again under the sea at the harbour's mouth, is confirmatory of the hypothesis that St. David's Island may stand on a bed of hydraulic lime, which is a very valuable substance at a place where docks and wharfs exist. Under this hydraulic lime was found a bed of clay. The operations in this particular part, in the narrowest part of the harbour's mouth, are confirmatory of the idea that part of the former land of the Bermuda Islands has subsided, and is now below the sea. A little way further out the diver found a rock of white lime-stone of good quality, differing from any hitherto found in the islands, but apparently formed on dry land.

The reefs at the outer bar, half a mile from the shore, were found of a different nature, being all recent coralline formations. The greater part are hemispherical masses, called here brain-stones (*meandrina labyrinthica.*) In this mass cavities sufficient are everywhere found, into which the diver is enabled to deposit tinned cases, which usually contain 50 lbs. of gunpowder, and which are fired with the galvanic battery. Contrary to expectation, the smallest part of the labour is that of breaking up the rock with gunpowder.

The principal labour will consist in removing the fragments. This is done at present, partly by the diver descending, and slinging the broken rock; and partly by catching it with nippers, used from boats, at which operation the inhabitants of Bermuda have long been expert.

Her Majesty's surveying ship, "Thunder," having been detained here some time refitting, it enabled Capt. Barnett, R.N., to make an exact survey of the passages, at which the diver was at work. This survey proved the value of having officers or other persons properly instructed in naval surveying, associated with the divers in such sub-marine operations. Without occasional surveys, there may be much loss of labour. It occurred to me, that if non-commissioned officers and privates of the Royal Marine Corps, are instructed in sub-marine mining, as I proposed last year, that the officers or non-commissioned officers of that corps, might easily be taught marine surveying, so far as is necessary for such operations; which suggestion I brought under the consideration of the naval commander-in-chief on the station.

(Signed) WM. REID, Governor.

JAMAICA.

(No. 52.) No. 7. No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of ELGIN to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Jamaica, King's House, May 6, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1845. It has been compiled with much care, and little remains to be added to the statistical information which it contains. In pursuance, however, of instructions received from the Secretary of State, I proceed to offer a few remarks on the condition and prospects of the colony, although, I am aware, that in attempting to discharge this duty, I may, unavoidably, in some instances, revert to topics which have been brought under your consideration in former Despatches.

2. The returns furnished by the officers of Her Majesty's Customs, show an increase of exports and a diminution of imports in 1845 as compared with 1844. The estimated value of exports, the produce of Jamaica in 1845, being 1,723,955*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, as against 1,142,303*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* in 1844; and of the deliveries for home consumption from the warehouse and the ship, 526,546*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* in 1845, against 635,362*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* in 1844. The falling off in imports appears to have been chiefly occasioned by the diminished quantity of provisions introduced during the past year from the United States. While the principal increase in exports occurs under the heads of sugar, rum, and pimento, coffee being an exception. These results are in the main attributable to the more favourable season, which both enhanced the productiveness of estates, and rendered the peasantry more independent of foreign supplies. A further increase of exports in 1846 was at one time looked for; but there is now much reason to fear that a drought which has prevailed without intermission for several months has done irreparable damage to the sugar crop.

3. Many planters of experience have been led to infer, from the frequent recurrence of dry seasons, that the climate of the colony has undergone a change. Some of the most productive sugar districts are peculiarly liable to this casualty. It is computed that, in the parish of Vere, one crop out of three is destroyed by drought. Under these circumstances, it were well that persons interested should consider whether the ruinous effects of these visitations might not be arrested by the adoption of extensive measures of irrigation, conducted with prudence and on scientific principles. The value of the sugar crop raised on a congenial soil is so great, that to secure it from periodical destruction, a considerable outlay of capital might, it may be presumed, be incurred with much propriety and advantage. It is well known that the cane is cultivated with success in countries where no rain falls, as in Peru; and I have been informed, that artificial irrigation has been resorted to with good effect in some of the most fertile districts of Porto Rico.

4. Notwithstanding serious disappointments and losses arising from this and other causes, I have much satisfaction in assuring you, that the zeal on behalf of the improvement of agriculture, of which it has been my pleasing duty from time to time to furnish such gratifying proofs to the Secretary of State, has not abated. Both owners and managers are assiduously engaged in introducing those changes in the system of cultivation which are necessary to enable them to meet the exigencies of their position as employers of free labour. So great is the amount of land suited to the culture of provisions and procurable at easy rates of purchase; and food of that description on which the peasantry chiefly subsisted during slavery can be raised from it in ordinary seasons with so little toil, that the growth of civilization among them, and of the tastes and habits which it creates, furnishes in the judgment of many well informed persons, the only effective security for their becoming generally and permanently dependent on the wages of continuous labour. Hence the importance, even on behalf of interests purely material, of promoting education among the lower classes; and replacing in the conduct of operations on estates the rude and laborious methods inherited from slavery by processes requiring fewer and more highly qualified workmen. In their

JAMAICA.

address to the Governor at the commencement of the last session of the Legislature, the House of Assembly made the following remarks:—"Your Excellency observes, that the state of the island as respects the supply of labour continues to engage a large share of public attention. We witness, with satisfaction, and attach the greatest importance to the progressive introduction of more economical processes of cultivation and manufacture. We are aware that there are many persons who believe, that in order to the development of the resources of the colony, an addition to the population is indispensable. We shall bestow the greatest consideration on this subject, earnestly hoping that the result of our deliberations may be conducive to the general welfare."

5. A reference to the effects produced by the substitution of the plough, harrows, and other implements of this class for the hoe, may serve to supply an illustration of the practical bearing of the measures above described in the general prosperity of the colony. Wherever changes of this nature can be adopted with propriety, they are necessarily followed either by an extension of cultivation, or a diminished demand for manual labour. But they are also attended with other benefits. The ploughman is selected for his superior intelligence and skill. Steadiness, sobriety, and trust-worthiness are essential to qualify him for the post, especially where horses are employed. The animals confided to his charge require attendance and care. He must identify himself with the estate. He must, in a great measure, abandon the desultory habits of a mountain settler. His wages are raised. He feels the dignity attaching to a responsible office. Among his fellows, some, it may reasonably be presumed, will be encouraged by his example to superior diligence and fidelity. In these and similar instances, there is a remarkable coincidence between the means best fitted to ensure economy of production and social progress.

6. It may not be improper to advert in this place, and in connexion with these topics, to the completion and opening of the railway between Kingston and Spanish Town, which may be considered one of the most notable occurrences of the past year. This undertaking, the first of the kind in the British West Indies, is said to have fully realized the expectations of its promoters. While the rapidity with which the works on the line were executed, and their moderate cost, are facts of very gratifying import in the present circumstances of the colony. Other railway schemes, which have been sanctioned by the Local Legislature, await Her Majesty's decision.

7. It is needless at the present day, to insist on the general benefits which may be expected to flow from the introduction of railways in a country where the means of internal communication have been hitherto so defective; but it may be observed, that from their tendency to facilitate the division of labour, they can hardly fail to be productive of some peculiar advantages, in a community which is passing from slavery to freedom, and where the population is scanty. Under the former system, when every proprietor had a body of slaves of various ages and capacities whom he was obliged to maintain, and for whom consequently it was his interest to find employment at all seasons, there was little temptation to seek economy of production in this direction. Accordingly not only did each estate rely mainly on its own resources for artificers and mechanics, but, however moderate its extent, and however remote the place of shipment, the agricultural, manufacturing, and carrying departments, were concentrated in the same hands. The introduction of rail and tram ways will relieve the planter who is settled in the interior from the risk and responsibility incurred in the carriage of his produce to the wharf, and from the ruinous losses to which he is now exposed by the destruction of his cattle in wet seasons. I am moreover of opinion, that they will lead at no very remote period, to the establishment of central factories in such districts as are suited to them, thereby liberating a considerable portion of the labour which is now absorbed in the conduct of small and scattered works, saving a vast amount of produce which is sacrificed to defective processes and insufficient machinery, and enabling persons possessed of limited capital to bestow their undivided means and attention on the extension and improvement of their cultivation.

8. While measures of this description and tendency are resorted to by employers, with the view of supplying the void occasioned by the withdrawal of compulsory labour, various enactments calculated to accelerate the march of

social improvement have been passed by the Local Legislature. I should extend this communication unduly, were I to attempt to enumerate these useful laws, and to point out the bearing of each on the state and prospects of the colony, but I venture to refer briefly to some of the more recent and important.

9. The condition of the prisons is a subject on which much attention has been bestowed of late years in this colony, and plans adopted for their improvement have been from time to time submitted to the Secretary of State. A general Penitentiary for the reception of all criminals sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for considerable periods is now in course of erection, under the direction of a Board of Commissioners, specially designated for this service. Means have been taken to employ the convicts themselves in the execution of the work, under such regulations as are consistent with the observance of the most approved principles of penal discipline. I enclose the copy of a Report by the Inspector of Prisons, describing the course which has been pursued with the view of rendering this institution effective for purposes of reformation and punishment. Looking to the ignorance and recklessness which characterize the greater number of those who become the inmates of our gaols, and to the facility with which, on the abandonment of evil courses, the means of an honest livelihood are procurable, there seem to be good grounds for the hope that a system of prison treatment, combining a due amount of vigor with faithful and kindly moral training, may prove, if steadily and perseveringly enforced, very efficacious in the repression of crime. This opinion derives confirmation from statements contained in the accompanying Report.

10. I had lately the satisfaction of transmitting an Act of the General Assembly of the Colony securing the payment of the stipends of the clergy for a period of fourteen years, and making certain additions to their number. This measure places the Established Church on a firmer footing than heretofore, and materially encreases its means of usefulness.

11. The state of education and the sanitary condition of the poorer classes have been brought on more than one occasion of late under the consideration of the Legislature. With respect to the latter of these important subjects, it is alleged that partly owing to the dispersion of the peasantry among the mountains, and partly to their reluctance to assume burdens which were borne by masters during slavery, the rural districts have ceased to hold out sufficient inducements to qualified practitioners, by whom they have been accordingly, in a great measure, abandoned. To this cause much sickness and encreased mortality is supposed to be attributable. A bill has been passed for providing dispensaries at the public expense where they are most required, and securing medical advice for the peasantry at a moderate cost. The evil which this enactment is intended to remedy is unquestionably one of great magnitude.

12. The attempt to promote the interests of general education in the colony, whether by Legislature or other means, is attended with considerable difficulty. Here, as in many parts of the empire, divisions of opinion on questions of religious belief are an obstacle to united action on this behalf among those who have the welfare of the people sincerely at heart. The want of teachers duly qualified is also a source of especial discouragement in a community where few persons have leisure to undertake the gratuitous supervision of schools, and where the parents being, for the most part, uneducated, are rarely capable of exercising any check on the incompetence of masters. Lastly, I regret to observe, that, with few exceptions, all the ministers of religion whose sentiments I have the means of ascertaining, concur in the statement that there now exists among the peasantry, a greater indisposition than heretofore to incur charges for the education of their children.

13. Under the authority of the Legislature certain Commissioners have been lately appointed to act as a Board of Education, and a fund of limited amount has been placed at their disposal. In my Despatch, No. 103, of 17th December, I had the honor to transmit the first annual report of their proceedings. They have considered it expedient in the execution of their trust, to adhere for the present, to the principles adopted by Her Majesty's Council in Great Britain confining their grants to schools already in existence. In pursuance of this plan they have appointed an Inspector whose visits and reports will, it may be hoped, encourage zealous and conscientious teachers, rouse the indolent to

JAMAICA.

exertion, and improve the general character of the education given in the schools frequented by the peasantry.

14. The Board have, moreover, taken steps for the establishment of a normal school of industry, and have recommended that instruction in the science and practice of agriculture should form a part of the educational course adopted in the rural districts. Considerations suggested by the peculiar condition of the colony seem to justify the belief that studies of this description may be prosecuted with much advantage in schools so situated, and that they may, under proper regulation, become the means of introducing into them a more efficient system of intellectual and moral training.

15. For it must not be forgotten, that a few years ago, according to the popular creed of these colonies, the freeman could not without degradation engage in field labour. Very momentous results are manifestly contingent on the entire abandonment of such pernicious prejudices. Nothing, however, would appear to be more likely to raise the moral tone of the peasant, and to convince him that all branches of honest industry are creditable, than the introduction of these despised pursuits into that course of education which he has been taught to regard as the road to distinction and social advancement.

16. Again, I observed in a former part of this Despatch, that there appeared to be among the employers of labour in the colony a growing disposition to seek in the adoption of processes of husbandry and manufacture requiring superior judgment, steadiness, and skill on the part of the labourer, some compensation for the losses entailed on them by the abolition of slavery. The friends of education will do much to confirm these views, and to enlist the sympathies of all on behalf of measures calculated to promote the highest interests of the peasantry, by showing that, not content with such superficial attainments in literature as are now too frequently the only fruit of attendance at school, they are systematically engaged in imparting to the rising generation habits of industry, and the rudiments of such knowledge as may be directly conducive to the material welfare of the colony.

17. Nor can it be doubted that much practical good may be effected by giving instruction on the above-mentioned subjects to the children of this class. The principles of rural economy are as yet but little understood by the peasantry, their mode of conducting cultivation, and applying animal power is frequently at variance with the most elementary rules of agricultural and mechanical science. With the view of meeting these requirements, measures have been taken to procure a text-book on agriculture, for the use of the rural schools, and it is earnestly hoped, that if a suitable work of this description be procured, it will be extensively employed in them.

18. In order more clearly to elucidate the practical bearing of these measures on the material and moral interests of the colony, it may be necessary to refer to some of those causes which have most powerfully contributed of late years to obstruct its progress.

19. In many and most important respects, the expectations of the friends of emancipation have been unquestionably more than realized by the results of that measure. The peaceful demeanour of the recently emancipated classes, their general deference for law, their respect for religious observances, have formed the theme of repeated and well-merited eulogy. No less remarkable and creditable to all classes, is the rapidity with which feelings which tend to estrange slaves and slave-holders have yielded to the growth of more liberal and kindly sentiments. When it is considered that the negro race in these colonies have passed at one stride from slavery to the full possession of the privileges enjoyed under the British Constitution in the nineteenth century; the readiness with which they have adapted themselves to their new condition, and the moderation which they have generally displayed under circumstances so intensely interesting and exciting, are subjects of gratification as regards the past, and of hope for the future.

20. It could hardly, however, have been anticipated that the disturbance to established interests, occasioned by the transition from slavery to freedom, would in all places, and under all circumstances, be felt in the same degree. There was every reason, for example, to presume, that in communities where the population was already dense, the substitution of money payments for the issue of rations from the master's store would be effected with comparative

ease, and that capital would confer on its possessor a command over labour nearly equivalent to that secured by law to the slave-holder.

21. But in Jamaica, at the crisis of emancipation, the difficulties arising from deficiency of population were in a small degree enhanced by the mode in which the dependance of the labourer on his master had been practically worked out under slavery. He had been taught to look for subsistence mainly to the produce of his provision ground. On this spot his interests were centred. It had supplied him with the necessaries of life, and occasionally with a fund for the purchase of indulgences. It was, therefore, natural, that when he became his own master, he should manifest a desire to acquire property in the soil, and a disposition to work on his own account rather than for hire. This tendency was confirmed by the low price at which such land as he required could be purchased, and, in some instances, it may be feared, by the injudicious methods adopted by managers to secure continuous labour on estates.

22. Within certain limits, the establishment of small proprietors, constituting the germ of a middle class, may undoubtedly be productive of great good; but there is reason to believe that the formation of independent settlements cannot be carried beyond this point, without entailing much eventual mischief. It deprives estates of that steady supply of labour, without which they cannot be profitably carried on. It tends to perpetuate among the peasantry those desultory and unscientific methods of husbandry which have been handed down from slavery, to check the division of labour, and the application of capital to cultivation. It operates injuriously to health and morals, by leading them to rely on their provision grounds for subsistence, and in unproductive seasons to restrict themselves and their families to insufficient quantities of food of inferior quality; above all, by scattering them over districts which are as yet but partially reclaimed from a state of nature, it withdraws them from the neighbourhood of schools and churches, and the humanizing influences, of their ministers and teachers.

23. The evil consequences of this system, when carried too far, are strikingly exemplified in the following extracts from a report recently furnished by a stipendiary magistrate in the parish of Saint Elizabeth:—"Many of the small "settlers are merely cultivating sufficient for a bare existence, and do not, by "competition, cheapen the price of labour, or even that of the farinaceous roots "of the country, which are at present very dear and scarce.

"Six years of entire freedom have not been sufficient to convince the moun- "tain peasantry that their true interest lies in cultivating such quantities of "provisions as will abundantly supply themselves and the weekly markets in "the parish; that they have not followed a course of industry so obviously "advantageous to themselves and the whole labouring community can only be "attributed to a supineness of disposition, which, although not universal, is far "too general among them." As might have been expected, failures in the provision crop, occasioned by drought, or other causes, produce in the district where the practice which has suggested the above remarks, prevails to so great an extent, an unusual amount of suffering and destitution.

24. The adoption of such improved methods as give to workmen of superior steadiness and skill the opportunity of obtaining higher wages and professional advancement, strict punctuality in payments, and the multiplication of educational facilities, seem to afford the best means of securing for estates that combined and continuous labour which appears, in the present condition of the colony, to be no less essential to the moral and social progress of the people, than to economy of production.

25. As affecting these important interests, it may not be improper to inquire into the probable tendency of measures taken for the encouragement of immigration, a subject which has given rise to much difference of opinion, and some acrimonious discussion.

26. Looking to the vast extent of the surface of the island, which is either unsettled or imperfectly cultivated, and without reference to the indications of mineral wealth presented in many districts, it can hardly be doubted that the colony is under-peopled, and that a large accession to the number of the inhabitants might take place with advantage to all classes. Land would rise in value; confidence would be restored; capital would flow more freely from

JAMAICA.

without, and accumulate with greater rapidity in the hands of small proprietors of superior activity and intelligence. The produce of the colony, whether for export or home consumption, would largely increase; burdens incurred in the support of establishments would fall with less weight on individuals; churches, chapels, and schools, would find their way into sequestered districts. now inhabited only by a few stragglers, who run some risk, it may be feared, in their isolation of relapsing into barbarism.

27. But an addition to the population which would work such important results as these cannot, by any known means be effected within a reasonable period of time; still less is it probable that any schemes of immigration hitherto propounded could produce such a pressure on the means of subsistence in this Colony, as would reduce a peasantry content to subsist on the fruits of the earth, and to forfeit the means of moral and intellectual culture, to a condition of dependence on the wages of continuous labour, even if such a consummation were otherwise desirable.

28. In discussing the expediency of immigration, therefore, the practical question at issue, is the amount of benefit derivable from an importation of foreign labour, in such quantities, and by such means, as are actually attainable.

29. I am disposed to believe, that in some parts of the Colony, estates cannot be generally conducted to profit without this aid; and that in all, the extension of cultivation, and the adoption of more economical methods, may be facilitated by the introduction of labourers from abroad, who are valuable by reason either of their skill, their steadiness, or their industry. Immigration, prosecuted with these views, therefore, and with a due regard to financial considerations, can hardly fail to prove beneficial; but I place little confidence in expedients of this nature, if they be resorted to as a substitute for agricultural improvement, or as the means of producing an artificial pressure on the labour market.

30. An instructive lesson on this branch of the subject may be derived from the conduct of the native peasantry in a district to which a cargo of Indian immigrants were lately conveyed. They received the strangers, it is stated, with much kindness, observing, that they were glad they had come, as they would relieve them from working for the estates when they wished to cultivate their own grounds. Such expressions may allay the apprehensions of those who fear lest the labour market should be overstocked with immigrants, but they also suggest a doubt as to whether the benefit accruing to the proprietary, from their introduction, be in all cases unalloyed.

31. These notices, brief and imperfect as they necessarily are, may serve to throw some light on the prospects of the Colony, and to indicate the course of policy which has been of late years pursued by those who are deeply interested in its welfare. The construction of a social edifice, worthy of freedom and the British name, is no light undertaking, nor will the work be consummated without toil and patience; but there is much to cheer those who are engaged in it, and to promise a successful issue to their labours.

32. Above all, it is important to observe, that under present circumstances, a connexion more than usually intimate and palpable subsists in this Colony, between the interests of the proprietary, and those of the peasant class. Every measure which substitutes fewer skilled for a greater number of unskilled labourers, raises the states of the latter; and whatever promotes their civilization, or moral and intellectual advancement, has a tendency not only to render them more skilful and trustworthy, but to induce them to flock more freely to the market as competitors for wages. The most rigorous application of the principles of economy to production, is here unattended with any displacement of labour, which can be productive of even temporary inconvenience. These considerations may go far to induce persons, who are desirous to contribute to the social well-being of the colonists, from motives of philanthropy or sympathy with the negro race, to unite cordially with those who are endeavouring to restore the material prosperity of the island, for the promotion of the common good.

33. Among the various measures of amelioration proposed or adopted, none exceed in importance, those which have the education of the rising generation for their object. The future welfare of the Colony is deeply involved in their success or failure. The Board of Education have already taken steps to

collect the most ample information, with respect to the statistics of the subject, for the guidance of the Legislature and the public. If it should appear that any considerable portion of the juvenile population are brought up as outcasts, in idleness, ignorance and dissipation, the expediency of establishing industrial seminaries, to which children so circumstanced may be conveyed by authority, may become matter for grave deliberation. In order to guard against abuse, and to preserve the full exercise of the rights of conscience, it may be provided that such authority shall be exerted only in respect of children who are not receiving education from other sources, and the institutions themselves may be placed under the supervision and control of the Board of Education. I should be unwilling, however, to recommend measures of a stringent character, until every appeal to better feelings had been made in vain; and I cherish the hope that parents may be induced to avail themselves spontaneously of those means of obtaining the blessing of education for their children, which are placed within their reach by the Legislature, by societies, and by the several religious denominations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 7. Encl. in No. 7.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT of the General Penitentiary.

To Colonel the Honourable ROBERT BRUCE, Governor's Secretary, &c.

SIR, October 1, 1845.

IN the Report which I had last year the honour to submit to his Excellency and the Legislature of the island, I thought it material to trace the progress of the institution from a condition of disgraceful and alarming disorder, at a period but shortly preceding, to a state of some acknowledged practical efficiency.

It is with much satisfaction I am now enabled to report that the improvement then described has continued to be progressive.

Among the several topics which a Prison Report must necessarily embrace, the first in importance seems to be

THE STATE OF THE DISCIPLINE.

It is gratifying to remark that no occurrence of an unpleasant character, respecting the order and quiet of the prison, formerly so common, has taken place since the last Report. I have the concurrent opinion of others, the best qualified to judge, for stating that there has been a marked improvement in the behaviour of the prisoners generally during the last year. They no longer combine to carry on within the walls of the prison, as at a former period, a warfare of retaliation against some of the best interests of society, but seem, in general, chiefly anxious to guard their own conduct by a careful observation of the rules, and a quiet submission to authority. Minor punishments for infractions of discipline have been gradually lessening in amount, and but one occasion has occurred of resorting to severer measures.

In the discipline of a well-managed prison there is much to subdue, to restrain, and correct, short of the lash, which, however, is held in reserve for special occasions, to which the law so properly awards it.

To a constant supply of productive employment we are doubtless indebted for some part of this improved conduct. Regular systematic labour is itself moral discipline, and of a most valuable kind. When the time is fully occupied by useful labour, there is less of either inclination or opportunity for the indulgence of evil designs or the perpetration of mischief. While, therefore, it forms a part of the just penalty of crime, it is made both to subserve the better conduct of the criminal, and to contribute to the cost of his support.

NUMBER OF INMATES.

On the 1st of October, the date of this Report, and of the several returns to which it has reference, the number was 458, being eight more than at the same period last year. In the course of the year ending 1st October, 1844, there were received into the Penitentiary, from the respective courts of assize and quarter sessions, 489. During the 12 succeeding months the number was 425, being a decrease of 64. The chief difference has, however, occurred under the head of larceny; and to the existence, since the close of last year, of a Petty Theft Act, must certainly be ascribed a part, though it is believed but a part, of this very marked reduction.

RE-CONVICTIONS.

One of the most satisfactory results of our improved discipline is to be found, perhaps, in the limited and decreased number of re-convictions. If, out of every hundred of those who are now subjected to the discipline of the Penitentiary, beyond a very brief period, 90 never return to it. The fair inference seems to be, that it has had the effect either of deterring them from

crime, or conducing to their reformation. The records of the year ending 1st October give about this proportion—1 in 10.

My examination of similar returns from some of the best-conducted prisons, both in England and the United States, has not supplied many instances equally favourable. The proportion is more frequently a sixth or a fifth, and in some cases has, I perceive, been a fourth of the entire number.

There are few results of our discipline that we watch with keener anxiety than the number of re-convictions. I shall be excused, therefore, if I just note, by anticipation (what properly belongs to a future Report), that of 51 prisoners received from the several courts of quarter sessions held in the month of October, two only are found to be old convicts—a proportion (1 in 25) to which we cannot generally expect these re-convictions to be limited, but still proving, I think, that the cause to which I venture to attribute this encouraging fact is not only in undiminished but in progressive operation.

The readiness with which a man, not notoriously and habitually vicious, obtains his usual employment, and admission again to something like his former status among his fellows, is probably one cause of the smaller number of re-convictions in this country. That a released convict should be received back by his friends, not with reserve and caution, but with welcomé, if not with cordiality, and at once treated as one who had rather been unfortunate than criminal, is a sad proof of the prevalence of a low and depraved moral standard. The stamp of infamy is, however, not always without some attendant disadvantages, and it is very possible to reject the man who bears it with too inflexible a severity.

Employments.

Since my last Report we have extended some of the most useful branches of employment, and introduced others not previously carried on.

The following list includes the chief occupations of the prison:—

Carpenters	Sawyers
Blacksmiths	Tinsmiths
Masons	Brickmakers
Bricklayers	Limeburners
Coopers	Tailors

and occasional employment in coffee picking.

The largest and most important of those branches of labour is that of

Brick-making.

In 12 months, from the 1st October, 1844, the number moulded was 1,145,000.

Since the early part of 1844, when this work was commenced, tho number burnt has been 1,543,600. At the date of this Report there were in process of manufacture 122,000, making the entire quantity actually moulded 1,665,600.

Of this large quantity of bricks, 1,457,000 have been moulded by convicts, who have been taught the art in the prison, some of them mere boys. It is a circumstance that must be held to be very satisfactory, that in this department of our labour, there has not been, for some months past, a single hired hand, every part of the process, both of brick-making and lime-burning, being now performed by the prisoners.

Lime-burning.

Up to the 1st of October the kilns had burned out 11,226 hogsheads, of which, at that date, 829 remained on hand.

The monthly produce is calculated at 460 hogsheads, a quantity proportioned to our expected supply of bricks.

Lime-stone for burning is now purchased at 6*s.* per ton, a reduction of 25 per centum upon the price heretofore paid, and we have the prospect of being supplied at a still lower rate.

Carpenter's Shop.

The whole of the carpenters' work is executed by prisoners, under competent superintendence, and several are being taught the trade.

Smith's Shop.

This has been considerably extended, and is producing some valuable work connected with the new building, for which we should have to pay at a high rate out of doors. Among the prisoners we have one or two excellent smiths, and others are employed as assistants and learners.

Coopers.

The cooperage is carried on entirely by prison labour, and approved coffee tierces and sugar hogsheads are turned out by men who never handled an axe or an adze before they entered the prison.

Bricklayers.

In carrying up our capacious wall, the labour of prisoners is being rendered more and more available, and not a few who had before never used a trowel, are destined to become good bricklayers.

Stone Masons.

Nearly all the squared stone for the plint of the wall, and the whole of the quoin-stones, an expensive species of work when paid for, have been cut by men who have learnt the art in the prison, and with a degree of care and truth perfectly satisfactory to the builder.

Brick-Yard.

In the course of the present year, the Commissioners have secured, by purchase, the land previously leased for the manufacture of bricks and lime, with a few additional acres—an important acquisition. The access to these premises from the prison is now by a tunnel under the road, a suggestion of Mr. Lambert's, and a work of the most manifest utility.

Proposed Plan of the Building.

Upon the general features of the plan the Commissioners have determined; matters of detail, such as the dimensions and ventilation of the cells, being still open to consideration. The plan itself was drawn in the United States, under the particular direction of the inspector. His visit to the States, confined as it was to objects of prison interest, had this especially for its principal object. In examining the several great penal establishments of America, he looked not more into the system of discipline than at the arrangement of the buildings, and looked at all with a constant reference to our peculiar climate and locality. The drawings submitted to the Commissioners, and of which they were pleased to approve, were the result of this extended range of rather careful observation. The plan is compiled upon the radiating principle, so advantageous for inspection and supervision, but in its simplest possible form, in order to leave large open spaces, not only for work-yards, but for the free circulation of air both by night and day, so essential in a tropical climate.

Laying the Foundation Stone.

On the 18th of February of the present year, the foundation stone of the intended building was laid by his Excellency the Governor, in the presence of several distinguished strangers, an occasion for which the authorities of the penitentiary made suitable preparations, and which proved to be one of considerable public interest.

The attendance of many of the clergy, with the venerable the archdeacon at their head, gave to the ceremony its due religious character, while the presence and assistance of the masonic body, by whom the proceedings were directed, greatly contributed to render it imposing and attractive. The following is the inscription on the stone:—

"This being the
FOUNDATION STONE
of the new Penitentiary, is now
laid by his Excellency the Right Honourable James, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor of Jamaica, &c. &c., in the presence of their
Excellencies Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy, Governor-General of the Windward
Islands, and Sir Henry A. Macleod, Knight, Governor of
Trinidad, &c. &c."

The ceremony concluded, his Excellency the Governor addressed the assembled company in a speech, to which I must beg to give the permanence to which it is entitled, by placing it among the documents appended to this report.

The Wall.

The wall, which will surround an area of about 10 acres, is intended to be not less than 20 feet in height, there being at each angle an octagonal guard tower. This immense enclosure is four feet wide at the base, and will be gradually narrowed to 18 inches, the width of the top.

By an estimate carefully, and I have no doubt accurately made, there will be required to complete the wall, about 1,300,000 bricks. The means now possessed of moulding and burning will at least provide 140,000 per month, a rate of supply sufficient to secure the completion of the wall by the close of next year.

The nature of the land near the sea was found to oppose great engineering difficulties to a solid foundation for a wall of such magnitude, which were only overcome by raising a series of arches upon strong piles of hardwood along the entire line, a work of great labour, but most satisfactory in its results.

To Mr. Fregelles, a very estimable and accomplished member of the Society of Friends, who made a too transient visit to the island in the course of last year, is the public of Jamaica indebted for this suggestion, as well as for much gratuitous professional advice on the best mode of carrying it out. The inspector had the pleasure to convey to Mr. Fregelles the best thanks of the commissioners for his very valuable services, the only reward he could be induced to accept.

Penitentiary Discipline.

A prison is certainly intended to be a place of punishment, as well as of reformation; let a prison possess no terrors, and it has no restraining influence. The good of the convict is not the only thing that claims attention: the public good is, and must be, a paramount consideration. The public welfare demands that the authority of the law should be sustained. Punishment and reformation are not, however, incompatible. Reformatory discipline is, in many respects, severe discipline. The severity of a well regulated prison consists in a steady pressure of the discipline on mind and body. The great object is to gain the submission of the mind. No man can be forced into reformation by the infliction of physical suffering. The subjection produced by mere force may leave the mind itself full of latent resistance. The *will* must be

JAMAICA.

gained—the will to amend. The mind is then at once accessible to reason and persuasion. Instead of torturing the body to punish crime, and deter from its commission, the penitentiary system substitutes silence, restraint, and hard labour; a discipline less revolting, but perhaps in reality more severely felt, and far more reformatory.

In complaints of a slighter kind we sometimes rely upon a promise, instead of inflicting a penalty. Even a bad man feels himself treated with respect in being so far trusted, and if the promise be kept, as it is very likely to be, becomes conscious of something like respect for himself; a new feeling, possibly, but one which directly conduces to his future good conduct.

Under a system of mere coercion and degradation, minds not totally devoid of sensation, either break down or become callous, while the hardened and the bad, who always feel severity the least, will but little regard it. In awakening the moral feelings of a convict, while you make him more alive to the severities of a prison, you call forth new motives to enable him to sustain them. A change in the conduct of several of our oldest offenders and very worst characters, not less striking than gratifying, can be distinctly dated from the period when encouragement was mingled with severity; coercion alone having been observed neither to terrify nor amend, but only to harden them. Just in proportion as moral means have been more generally employed, has the necessity of severe coercion been diminished.

The real Severity of the Discipline.

To those who may have thought but superficially on the subject, and who have been accustomed, perhaps, to estimate the penalty of a prison by the amount of apparent degradation which it presents, the order and cleanliness of a well managed penitentiary may rather suggest the idea of comfort than of suffering. But such persons should be reminded, that the very order and regularity of the place is the result of unrelaxing supervision and restraint; that this restraint is imposed upon men who have been accustomed to the almost uncontrolled indulgence of their own will—to revel in low licentious pleasures—to spend days in idleness and nights in sport. Is it a slight penalty to such men to find that every action of every day is under control; that they can neither work when they like, nor rest when they like, nor speak when they like; that they cannot eat what they choose, nor when they choose, nor as much as they choose; that their dress and persons are subjected to a frequent, and rigid, and mortifying search; that their every movement is watched with distrust and suspicion, and no single infraction of stringent rules permitted to escape the merited privation, or the severer punishment; that the labour is compulsory and unrequited; that it is, in fact, a state of self-inflicted slavery, without its alleviations, the reforming agency of the prison alone, perhaps, excepted?

It is in this unbending and unbroken series of restraints,—in the *altogether* of the place,—that the pressure of the discipline consists, and which renders it to some all but intolerable.

Characteristics of the Convict-Class.

In all countries, I believe, the class of confirmed criminals are found to be peculiarly deficient in forethought. It is, at least, the especial characteristic of the worst class of nego criminals. Neither what they may have suffered for crime, nor what may await them as the consequence of any future commission of it, seems sufficient to deter many of them from the practice. A considerable proportion will be found to consist of men either of very narrow intellect, or more than an average share of shrewdness and cunning. The commen sense order of men are not very numerous in a prison, and of these we observe few are reconvicted. They have more forethought, and appear to profit more by experience.

General Ignorance of Prisoners.

Among the inmates of the penitentiary very many who have stood in relations more or less intimate with various Christian congregations, are yet found to be ignorant of the very first principles of morality and religion. Their views are so utterly obscure and erroneous, that they must depend entirely upon the advantages afforded within the prison walls for whatever of such knowledge they acquire. The simplest child's catechism, committed to memory, would have taught them more than they have learnt from years of mere public instruction.

Has the minister of religion always sufficiently descended to the limited capacity of his negro hearers—to their limited knowledge of words—to their extreme dulness of apprehension with regard to all abstract truth, and what to them may appear to be remote interests?

Has there not been too much broad-cast sowing, rather than planting and watering? A continued address is apt to weary, without either interesting or informing them—the ignorant hearer is seldom carried along with it—his attention soon flags—he may sit still, indeed, and with his eyes, too, fixed on the minister; but his mind all the while will be either asleep or wandering.

It was an apt illustration of one of the fathers, (which an inspector of prisons, though a laic, may, I hope, be permitted to adduce,) "that if you desired to fill a number of empty bottles, you would not leave them on the ground and scatter the water over them, but take up each singly, and pour it in." But how much more is this essential, if, before the vessel can receive the water of life, it has often to be discharged of the poison of error?

In a country professing to be Christian, and favoured for some years with much public teaching, it is not less surprising than lamentable that such an extent of ignorance should still be found in the labouring population. So much of the peace, comfort, and even safety of society depends upon the character and habits of this class, that it becomes a question of the deepest interest and importance how the mass of these men may be more effectually raised from ignorance and sensuality to a higher state of intelligence and virtue.

Much of the crime of the country is connected with ignorance, and the people are ignorant, not because they have been absolutely untaught, but, it may be feared, because they have too

seldom been taught individually, and with sufficient plainness; because, in fact, the instruction not having reached the mind, has never aroused and informed the conscience, and has therefore had no practical efficacy.

Intemperance a Cause of Crime.

As one of the direct causes of much serious crime, it is impossible to overlook the vice of intemperance. Crimes, attended with personal violence, are indeed generally committed under the excitement of spirit-drinking. It consists with my own knowledge, that in one recent case of this nature, which had a fatal result, the intoxicating draught was purposely taken to nerve to the deed of blood; while in other cases of less deliberate murder the dreadful act was committed under the madness of complete intoxication.

Nor would there be much risk, I fear, in attributing a portion of the very prevalent crime of stealing to insobriety. Intemperate drinking is the direct occasion both of indolence and expense; while it indisposes to labour, it not only creates an importunate want, but, as its immediate effect, makes a man reckless of his conduct—thus, at once, tempting to dishonesty, and preparing for the perpetration of it. I have the assurance of our excellent chaplain, Mr. Smith, that in his intercourse with the prisoners many such acknowledgments have been made to him.

And I cannot but be here reminded that there are in the penitentiary, at this moment, those born to far other hopes, who owe to intemperance their said degradation.

Can the legislature do nothing to restrain this growing evil?

When a rum licence had been granted to a store in the vicinity of the New Castle barracks, the general, alarmed for its effect upon the welfare of the troops stationed there, memorialized the vestry to withdraw the licence.* Who does not honour that distinguished individual for so parental an act? And does the state owe no similar duty towards a population which may in general be termed mere adult children—"children of a larger growth?" Are the moral habits of the troops of more importance to the country than the moral habits of its peasantry? Is it not a fact that the practice of excess in rum-drinking is stimulated and increased by the almost unnumbered places in which it is now sold? Would it not be an enlightened policy to impose some additional limits and restraints upon its retail sale? Important as is revenue, both to the public treasury and to the parishes, it would be a too costly mode of securing it that should have the effect of retarding the moral improvement of the labouring population.

Horse Stealing.

This crime has certainly not decreased. To those who addict themselves to it, horse-stealing seems to have a peculiar fascination—partly, perhaps, from a prevailing passion for horses, among the country labourers, from the facility with which the crime is often accomplished here, the means of concealment and disguise, and the ease with which a horse can be removed to a distance, and passed into other hands. In the absence of transportation, which would seem to be the just penalty of this offence, a long period of imprisonment will at least secure the public for the time from new depredations. When a horse-stealer is re-convicted it is generally for the same crime.

Duration of Sentences.

A short imprisonment is apt to produce indifference.—The mind being fixed upon a speedy release takes little impression from what may be either taught or endured in the prison. A strong hope of pardon, whenever that is entertained, produces, if not the same effect, yet a restlessness of mind opposed to the salutary influence of discipline, and often to due submission and obedience. An undefined fate, such as that of prisoners under sentence of transportation for life, without knowing when or where they will be sent, has a somewhat similar effect upon the conduct. Weak minds can ill bear prolonged suspense. Hopelessness and uncertainty seem alike unfriendly to moral reformation.

The best behaved prisoners are generally those who have a fixed, but rather lengthened term of imprisonment, not less than a year, nor more than three years. They are upheld and encouraged by looking to the end, but feel it to be sufficiently distant to make it their interest to bend to the discipline, and acquire the habit of obedience.

There could be few stronger inducements to good behaviour in prison, than the hope, by this means, to accelerate release by ever so short a period. The remission of one day in a month, as the reward of unexceptionable conduct, would, I believe, on the whole, act beneficially. It may be regarded as a low motive, but to engage the will on the side of correct behaviour is no slight matter, and the *habit* of good conduct may, perhaps, not have the less force because chiefly stimulated by considerations of interest.

Hopes of Reform.

I am aware there are persons, and those too who have paid some attention to the subject who doubt the reformatory effects of any system of prison discipline; who have, in fact, arrived at the opinion that convicts are seldom reformed—thieves almost never. This I expect will apply more closely to the state of things in long civilized countries than in this. An educated and professional thief is, perhaps, rarely reformed; with him the love of evil becomes a master passion. He has sunk into that character after a perfect process of depravity. Not so exactly with the worst men in the penitentiary. They can look back to no period of life, even that of early childhood, when their tendencies were not the same. They were, in fact, taught no better. Conscience, in the educated thief, has been silenced—seared. In the men referred to it has scarcely been awakened.

* The vestry of St. Andrew's, freely admitting the truth and force of the appeal, withdrew the licence.

JAMAICA.

The power of conscience, in not a few of the inmates of the penitentiary, seems almost unknown. They appear not to have any distinct sense of guilt, even in respect to those crimes for which they were fairly tried and proved guilty. They find it easier to believe what they may have heard said in their favour than anything the witnesses, jury, and judge said against them—a delusion to which, in minds so weak and debased, the legal plea of "not guilty" possibly lends a senseless support. Though in men of this description we have the deepest ignorance, and the most inveterate habits to combat, I have little doubt that an educated and professional thief is a more hopeless character.

With the criminal class, wherever found, the difficulties which oppose their reformation are, however, sufficiently great; and it would be as absurd to underrate them as to believe them to be insuperable.

Habit is found to exercise a scarcely less terrible influence upon the understanding and conscience than over the will; when crime therefore has become habitual, when it has been, as with some, the habit of a life, commencing from its very earliest years, the case is perhaps all but hopeless. With such characters a short imprisonment, even in the best conducted penitentiary, can avail nothing; time must be given to instil other principles, and to attempt the formation of other habits, and when all has been done a special influence can alone make it effectual.

Encouragements.

There may be cause enough, generally, to distrust the sincerity of professions made in prison, while the convict is under restraint, but we are not without the most satisfactory evidence—the evidence of facts, to assure us that, with regard to some, the habits of order and industry, the salutary instruction, and the whole reformatory process to which they are subjected, when applied for a sufficient length of time, considerably influence their moral conduct after leaving the prison.

When about to regain their liberty, it is not unusual for prisoners to acknowledge, with apparent sincerity and gratitude, their obligation for the means of improvement that have been afforded them; and they seldom fail to diffuse its warning effect, by declaring the penitentiary to be no place of ease and indulgence, but of real and severe punishment.

Separation at Night.

Every means have been adopted that our circumstances admit of to increase the number of separate night-rooms, but still the great body of the prisoners sleep in crowded dormitories—a very serious, but at present irremediable evil. To the thoroughly bad this kind of association is almost an indulgence, while, by the better disposed, separation is held to be a privilege. It is no mean proof of a desire for amendment, when a prisoner, heretofore troublesome, requests to be placed by himself at night.

The intercourse of bad men must almost necessarily be corrupting, and there is no consideration which makes us so much desire the completion of the proposed buildings as the means it will afford of more effectually preventing this intercourse. Silence at night, as well as by day, is indeed not only strictly enjoined, but is maintained to an extent that would, I think, strike a stranger with surprise; for, with nearly 500 inmates, the prison enclosure, in the intervals of the watchman's call, has the air and stillness of a solitude. Where prisoners are thrown together in masses they will, however, contrive to communicate. Wanting mutual confidence, because wanting principle, there is little to be apprehended from any attempts at combination; but could we entertain any fear of disorder, which the vigilance of our supervision renders, I hope, impossible, it would arise from this concert at night. The weariness of a hard day's work is not our least effective safeguard.

Cleanliness.

The utmost care is taken to secure cleanliness, ventilation, and drainage, all so essential to health in a crowded prison. An abundant supply of water, found everywhere near the surface, and the natural descent of the land towards the sea, are favourable to all these objects, and constitute great local advantages.

On the recommendation of the medical officer, our dormitories are white-washed very frequently, and the floors are all dry-scrubbed daily, instead of being cleaned by the use of water—a proceeding rendered the more necessary by the crowded state of most of our night-rooms, and the comparative want of ventilation.

Medical Department.

Of the Surgeon, whose official return will be appended to this Report, I can say no less than, could that gentleman require any testimony of mine, it would be impossible to speak too highly of the unremitting and humane attention he pays to his important charge.

Whatever may be the character or the crime of a convict, the public are bound to return him to society no more impaired in health than the circumstances of his confinement shall make inevitable. With all the professional care they receive, to some who are sent but for a limited term, it unhappily proves imprisonment for life. For the particulars of these cases, unusually numerous, I regret to say, during the last year, I beg to refer to Dr. Campbell's Report.

Character of Subordinate Officers.

Our first object is to get men of good moral character—men who can govern themselves. We allow no known immorality among the various persons employed and resident in the prison—no irregular connexions—no intemperance—no profane swearing—nor disorderly conduct of any kind. This strict moral standard has sometimes deprived us of the services of

men otherwise desirable, but of the balance of advantage no question can exist. Vicious men are not likely to be reformed by vicious agents. An institution for the repression of crime and immorality should exhibit no violation of morals and decency in those who administer its authority.

Character being the first thing, we next look for men of some intelligence, who will enter with zeal and cheerfulness upon the various duties.

No weak mind ever acquired any considerable influence over other minds, especially bad minds; unfortunately, the very low rate of pay assigned to our subordinate officers, much below that of privates in the police force, presents a constant difficulty in the way of securing men sufficiently enlightened to be capable of exercising any moral authority, or even to know what it means.

When convicts discover in those who are over them energy of will, united with quiet determination, they at once know that submission is inevitable. A firm but steady treatment will generally render great severity unnecessary.

A merely boisterous display of power has only a momentary effect; a negro prisoner would laugh, if he dare, at mere ebullitions of temper—none see its weakness sooner. Coercion and discipline should not only be, but should *appear* to be, the severity of law and rule, not of the officer. Authority thus exercised will generally be submitted to without resentment and without complaint. There is a sense of justice in some of the lowest and worst men that tells them when they have been rightly dealt with, unwilling as they may be to acknowledge it.

Chaplain.

The Rev. Mr. Spence having been removed to a curacy in the country, the Rev. Mr. Smith, a gentleman possessing the advantage of more experience, and well qualified for the office, has been appointed to the chaplaincy.

The Legislature performed an act of enlightened wisdom when they provided so liberally for the religious instruction of the prisoners. Christianity, in its genuine influence, is the surest antidote to crime—the great reformer of the bad, as it is the great civilizer of the barbarous.

Visiting Justices.

No stated visits have been made by these gentlemen, nor has the necessity for such an arrangement been found to exist. On all special occasions, however, their assistance has been gladly sought, and very readily afforded, much to the benefit of the public service.

Mr. Lambert's other duties, and the interest he takes in the general business of the institution, secure his constant attendance. His presence affords the opportunity of frequent consultation on subjects of common solicitude, always so desirable, and without the slightest invasion of that principle in prison government, which is more than desirable, which is absolutely essential—unity of action, and the authority of a head.

Visitors.

Though we feel a just repugnance, I think, to make this receptacle of crime a promenade for merely thoughtless visitors, whose presence may in some instances perhaps mortify an unhappy convict, I need not say that our best attentions are at the service of members of the Legislature, of magistrates, whether from town or country, and generally of all persons, properly introduced, who take an interest in the moral welfare of the community. And I beg most cordially to add, that nothing will be more agreeable to us than to receive at any time, from any quarter, practical suggestions, either for the useful diversity of the labour, or the improvement of the discipline.

For that part of this Report which embraces facts, I am very sure no apology will be required. They are the appropriate topics for such a record, and those I have been enabled to produce are not undeserving, I think, of the prominence I have given them.

To his Excellency these facts are already well known. Our proceedings have not only been constantly under his eye, but often guided by his judgment. The public of Jamaica are uot unaware of this, and justly consider themselves fortunate, that when the exigencies of society demanded an extended penal establishment, the governor of the island, in his care for every branch of the social system, has been found to take so deep an interest in this institution, and to be not less competent to advise upon its various mechanical arrangements, than its very details of internal regulation and discipline, and all that has tended to give it a reformatory character.

For whatever appears under one or two of the heads of this Report that may be considered rather matter of opinion, the inspector is alone accountable. But he is most anxious to have it distinctly understood, that the remarks relating to discipline are not of this class. To his apprehension they are principles, not opinions, and principles too essential and vital in their importance. They have long been the unshaken convictions of his own mind; and the aids he has sought from reading and observation, with the still better light of experience, have only fortified him in their truth.

Time will place the controlling power and chief direction of the institution in other hands, and with it a large responsibility; but time changes no sound principle, and sure he is, that these, and these alone, are the principles of management that will be found to influence the human mind and character, and to effect the great moral objects of a penal penitentiary.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
John Daughtrey.

JAMAICA.

The Speech of His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of laying the Foundation Stone of the Penitentiary.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE interesting ceremony in which we have been engaged, and which has been graced by the presence of my distinguished guests, the representatives of our gracious Sovereign in the neighbouring colonies, is calculated to suggest serious thoughts; and I cannot refrain from offering a few observations in reference to the proceedings of the day, and the circumstances which have led to them.

It is, on the one hand, a melancholy consideration that an edifice of such extent and magnitude should be rendered necessary by the amount of crime which exists in this community; that among a population surrounded by so many blessings, and in the full enjoyment of personal freedom, there should still be found so large a number of persons who are guilty of violating the solemn obligations which they owe to society. But, on the other, as this sad necessity confessedly does exist, it is a matter of heartfelt satisfaction that the legislature of the island should have resolved that this institution shall be erected upon the most approved principles; that it shall be adapted to an efficient system of penal discipline; and that every precaution shall be taken to prevent it from becoming what ill-regulated prisons are too apt to prove—the nursery of crime, a Normal school of vice and profligacy. I am very desirous that the nature of the discipline adopted in this establishment should be known, lest it should be supposed that criminals, sentenced to imprisonment here, will escape the penalty due to their offences. Constant labour in unbroken silence during the day, and solitary confinement at night, will be the lot of all its inmates; and this salutary system of restraint, coupled with the attention and care of a zealous and exemplary chaplain, and well qualified schoolmaster, while it opens wide the door of reformation to the penitent, will, it is believed, render a sojourn within its walls doubly irksome to the incorrigible and depraved. The defective state of the accommodation makes it impossible to carry out this system in all its details at present, but I have much satisfaction in stating, that through the praiseworthy exertions of the inspector of prisons, and the visiting justices, it has already been introduced to a considerable extent, and with the most gratifying results. In proof of this allegation, I beg to mention certain circumstances which have lately come to my knowledge. A material decrease has taken place in the proportion which the second convictions bear to the aggregate number of convictions, a fact from which it may be inferred that those who have undergone the discipline enforced here are unwilling to return. I have also been informed that of the 450 convicts, who are now confined here, 93 have, during the period of their imprisonment, acquired that inestimable blessing, the power of reading the Holy Scriptures, and that 200 others are making progress towards the same desirable object. I leave it to this intelligent audience to estimate the moral value of this fact. With respect to the productiveness of the labour of the convicts, I may observe, that the bricks and lime, and, with few exceptions, all the materials hitherto employed in the erection of the building, have been manufactured by them. To those who know what this establishment was a year ago, this fact will speak volumes; and it is hoped, that with the aid of a few qualified persons to superintend and instruct them, the prisoners will be able to complete the whole edifice. Much more might be said on the details of this interesting subject, but I am unwilling to detain you longer under the rays of a tropical sun. In conclusion, however, as my venerable friend the Archdeacon has offered a most suitable and impressive prayer on the occasion, I may, perhaps, be permitted to observe, with reference to this portion of the ceremony, that although this building is not expressly dedicated to the service of God, or to the advancement of our fellow-men in the paths of literature or science, it is nevertheless a work on which we may not unfittingly invoke a blessing from on high. Among the many indications which this age has afforded of the influence of Christian principles on the mind of Christian nations, few perhaps are more striking or significant than the solicitude which has been evinced in many quarters to improve the condition of those unhappy persons who have forfeited their personal freedom to the offended laws of their country; and I feel much gratification in bearing testimony to the wisdom and zeal with which the legislature of Jamaica have prosecuted this most important and benevolent object.

RETURN of CONVICTS committed to the Penitentiary during the Year 1844.

County and Parish.		Horse Stealing.	Forgery.	Burglary.	Cattle Stealing.	Larceny.	Against Nature.	Rape.	Attempt to commit Rape.	Assault, with intent.	Assault.	Arson.	Murder.	Manslaughter.	Killing Cattle.	Sheep Stealing.	Cutting and Wounding.	Riot and Assault.	Escape.	Perjury.	
MIDDLESEX . .	1	3	..	1	2	5	4	5	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	28
St. Catherine .	1	..	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
St. Thomas in the Vale.	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
St. Dorothy .	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. John . .	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clarendon . .	5	1	..	1	..	9	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	14
Vere . . .	6	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	11
Manchester .	7	..	..	..	2	31	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	39
St. Mary . .	8	2	..	..	..	12	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	20
St. Ann . .	9	3	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	..	..	30
SURREY . . .	2	..	..	..	1	2	1	3	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	13
Kingston . .	10	..	..	1	..	93	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	97
Port Royal . .	11	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
St. Andrew .	12	..	..	..	..	25	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
St. Thomas in the East.	13	1	..	1	..	23	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	32
St. David . .	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portland . .	15	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
St. George . .	16	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Metcalfe . .	17	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	32
CORNWALL . .	3	8	..	3	..	9	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	27
St. Elizabeth .	18	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	16
Hanover . .	19	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Westmoreland .	20	1	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Trelawney . .	21	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	21
St. James . .	22	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	12
Total . .	..	19	..	7	5	370	6	12	1	9	23	5	..	3	4	2	11	7	4	1	489

RETURN of CONVICTS committed to the Penitentiary during the Year 1845.

County and Parish.	Horse Stealing.	Forgery.	Burglary.	Cattle Stealing.	Larceny.	Against Nature.	Rape.	Attempt to commit Rape.	Assault, with intent.	Assault.	Arson.	Murder.	Manslaughter.	Killing Cattle.	Sheep Stealing.	Cutting and Wounding.	Riot and Assault.	Escape.	Perjury.	
MIDDLESEX . . .	5	1	2	..	5	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	23
St. Catherine . .	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
St. Thomas in the Vale.	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
St. Dorothy . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. John . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clarendon . . .	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	20
Vere	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Manchester . . .	..	..	1	..	12	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	15
St. Mary . . .	..	..	4	..	11	..	..	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	21
St. Ann	2	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	12
SURREY	3	..	..	..	2	1	2	2	..	2	2	..	2	..	..	3	..	1	..	20
Kingston . . .	..	..	1	..	65	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	72
Port-Royal . . .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
St. Andrew . . .	1	..	1	..	19	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	31
St. Thomas in the East.	1	..	2	..	23	..	..	..	..	5	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	34
St. David . . .	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Portland . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. George . . .	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	10
Metcalfe . . .	1	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	25
CORNWALL . . .	9	1	1	3	4	1	1	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	29
St. Elizabeth . .	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Hanover . . .	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Westmoreland . .	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	12
Trelawney . . .	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
St. James . . .	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total . .	22	2	12	3	292	3	3	4	6	31	7	2	3	4	2	15	9	4	1	425

JAMAICA.

NUMBER in CUSTODY, 1st October, 1845—458.

				Ages.		Crimes.	
Natives . . .	404	Black . . .	405	Under 17 years .	18	Horse stealing .	49
Not natives . .	54	Coloured . .	40	From 17 to 21 .	65	Forgery . . .	2
		White . . .	13	From 21 to 30 .	98	Burglary . .	28
				From 30 to 40 .	234	Larceny . . .	302
				Above 40 years .	43	Against nature .	11
						Against the person	42
						Rape . . .	13
						Perjury . . .	2
						Escape . . .	9
	458		458		458		458

TERMS OF SENTENCE.

Imprisonment.				Transportation.			
Under 3 months .	10	For 1 year . .	98	For 7 years . .	48	For 15 years .	8
For 3 months .	6	Between 1 and 3 years.	135	For 10 years .	24	For 20 years .	3
For 4 months .	2			For 14 years .	4	For life . . .	24
For 6 months .	45	For 3 years . .	26			Death recorded .	3
For 8 months .	3	Above 3 years .	5				
For 9 months .	14						
	80		344		76		114

Second conviction	39	Imprisonment	344
Third conviction	9	Transportation	114
Received during September	2		458
Discharged by expiration of sentence . .	21		

Return of Work performed in the Brick and Lime-Yard to the 1st October, 1845.

1,541,600 Bricks burnt.
122,000 Bricks in process of manufacture.
9,000 Plain tiles.
906 Paving tiles.
1,687 Draining tiles.
11,226 Hogsheads of lime.
2,806 Carts load of sand dug and delivered.

A Statement of various Work connected with the Building Department, done at the General Penitentiary, from 13th July, 1844, to 1st October, 1845.

11,261 Cubic yards of excavating and levelling land, at various places.
4,850 Feet of boring for piles.
4,850 Feet of piling in all the foundations, sawed, hooped, and driven.
1,524 Feet of beams knotched and skew-backed.
3,037 Feet of square piling in the sawing, pointing, and driving.
2,900 Round piles, driving, pointing, heading, and carrying.
2,088 Feet of planking to outside of sea piling, bolted and screwed.
882 Feet of pitch-pine scantling to outside ditto.
602 Feet of bracing, between front and counter piles, dovetailed.
302 Feet of hardwood plank, pointed and fitted to cover drain.
274 Rods of concreting at sundry places.
7,654 Feet of old 9-inch stone set in plinth and drain.
4,010 Feet of new 9, 12, and 14-inch stone, set as plinth in walls and towers.
859 Feet of 9, 10, 12, 14 ditto, ready for use.
64 Quoins of 12 and 14 inches square and octagon, for towers and gate.
24 Large size stones sold, Christopher Maddix.
9 12-inch ditto ditto, Robert Taylor.
17 Ditto sunk in chapel and hospital.
50 Men, on an average, bailing water from foundation, for 144 days.
266 Rods of brick-work, set in mortar and cement.
205,000 Old bricks, for various buildings, cleaned.
To sinking well opposite office, building, covering, and making tank.
To building and cementing tank for hospital use.
99 Feet of cemented drain, from yard pump to nursery.
109 Feet of cemented drain, laying lead pipe to hospital nursery.

A Statement of the Work executed in the Smith's Shop, in connexion with the Building Operations.

2,000 Spike nails used in scaffold for piling.
94 Hoops for heads of piles.
21 Large hoops for driving piles.
180 Monkey bars and colters.
350 Bolts, nuts, and screws for sea piling, average 18 inches.
505 8-inch spikes for bracing between front and centre piling.
1 (One) iron gate for entrance to "dark cells."
1 Grating for same.
16 Ditto for ditto.
4 Door bolts for ditto.
1 Gate with webb lock for tower.
Making pump, and laying pump for hospital.
Making a new box, and repairing pump in yard.
Ditto ditto ditto pump in kitchen.
Fitting up pump in front of office.
4 Side bolts to coffee-room doors.
1 Gate and grating for water-closets.
4 Piling engines, mounted.
1 Sluice and flood for drains.
22 Bolts for hospital joists.
2 Ketches for outer gate.
2 Stokers' forks for brick-yard.
8 Bolts for mortar mill.
4 Bands for ditto.
1 Grating for the roof of tunnel.
30 Cleets for doors.
6 Door bolts for specimen cells.
18 Striking plates for doors.
57 Window bars for rooms in "asylum yard.'
3 (Three) door bolts for rooms in same.
1 (One) door for No. 9 room.
7 Door bolts for house of correction.
2 Draw wells, mounted.
Repairing and making two pump boxes.
2 Dozen holdfasts for windows.
14 Brackets for roof of chapel.
600 Straps for stone boxes.
20 Wheelbarrows, mounted.
1 Grating for kitchen.
160 Stone hammers re-steeled.
3 Arched gratings for drains.
7 Square gratings for ditto.
2 Rakes for concreting.
18 Hoops for rammers.
2 Augurs for boring.
6 Gratings for specimen cells.
136 Window bars for specimen cells.

Medical Report of the General Penitentiary, from October, 1843, to September, 1845.

In presenting a report of the sanitory condition of the general penitentiary during the two last years, I am happy to state that a very gratifying improvement has taken place in the general health of the prisoners during the past year, as compared with that preceding.

This favourable result is chiefly observed in the diminished frequency of bowel affections; a class of cases that has hitherto prevailed extensively, and been the chief cause of the mortality in the prison. The smaller number of admissions into hospital, and especially the diminution in the amount of slighter ailments treated without being taken into hospital, are also remarkable, and are to be ascribed in a great degree, I am sure, to the gradually improved system of discipline now followed, in which moral correction has been, in a great measure, substituted for bodily coercion and punishment by reduction of diet, which were at one time almost the only means employed for bringing to submission the turbulent and refractory. With this enlightened change, not only has the discipline of the prison been rendered more effective and easily enforced, but a much more healthy state, both of body and mind, been induced, as is shown by the improved appearance and more cheerful demeanour of the prisoners generally. Cases of insubordination, or other breaches of discipline, are of almost daily occurrence, in which the offender is at once brought to submission and a proper sense of his error, by firm and judicious admonition, while, formerly, he would have been ordered into solitary confinement with bread and water diet, to be removed only when hunger enforced an assumption of contrition, or when, in the opinion of the medical officer, it was unsafe longer to persist in such measures.

JAMAICA.

The evil effects on the disposition and physical condition of the prisoner of habitually interfering with his diet as a means of punishment, has become more evident to my mind by contrast, in proportion as the practice has been discontinued. Other circumstances have, no doubt, largely contributed to increase the general health of the prison, and especially to secure for it the comparative immunity it now enjoys from dysentery.

The accommodation for sleeping has been increased to the extent of nearly one-third, by the adaptation of the various buildings included within the area of the new works to the purposes of dormitories, and a much more wholesome and pure state of the atmosphere has thus been secured. The most unremitting attention has been directed to improving the ventilation of the different wards, and to the proper construction of the sewers and drains.

The construction of the dietary has been at all times a subject of anxious solicitude with me, but, except the addition of a small meal consisting of a half pint of oatmeal gruel, allowed before commencing the day's labour, and special allowances in individual cases, I have seen no reason to recommend any alteration. Without being excessive it seems to be amply sufficient for the maintenance of robust health, and is certainly much more wholesome and nutritious than the generality of the labouring population are accustomed to. But few cases of scurvy, which was at one time so prevalent, now occur, and these are slight and readily removed by an additional allowance of lime juice with fresh meat and vegetables. The following form, constructed from a table kept by me of the weight of each prisoner on admission and discharge, shows that a considerable falling in flesh takes place immediately after admission, but that an improvement is soon perceptible, and eventually increased weight is attained by continued residence in prison.

Average weight of prisoners confined for two months.
On admission 140 lbs.
discharge 132 lbs.
Or a loss of 8 lbs. per man.
Average weight of prisoners confined for three months.
On admission 140 lbs.
discharge 133 lbs.
Or a loss of 7 lbs. per man.
Average weight of prisoners confined for four months.
On admission 135 lbs.
discharge 132 lbs.
Or a loss of 3 lbs. per man.
Average weight of prisoners confined for six months.
On admission 134 lbs.
discharge 133 lbs.
Or a loss of 1 lb. per man.
Average weight of prisoners confined for nine months.
On admission 140 lbs.
discharge 139 lbs.
Or a loss of 1 lb. per man.
Average weight of prisoners confined for twelve months.
On admission 135 lbs.
discharge 136 lbs.
Or a gain of 1 lb. per man.

It may not be out of place here to state that continued observation has fully confirmed the favourable opinion entertained by the Commissioners of the salubrity of this locality, by selecting it as the site for the permanent penitentiary. The subject has been much canvassed of late in reference to the proposed erection of another public institution in the neighbourhood, and it has been urged that the district is at times exposed to miasmatic emanations from swamps to the eastward of the city.

Our experience is in direct opposition to this proposition. Within the last three years, during which I have had the medical charge of the Penitentiary and House of Correction, out of the large number of nearly 2000 inmates, not one case of disease has occurred that could be ascribed to miasma. Intermittent fever has never, to my knowledge, originated within the walls of the prison, and cases introduced are in general speedily benefited by the change. No case of severe fever has occurred during the two last years among a body of 116 military prisoners, a majority of whom have been unacclimated Europeans. These are strong facts; they speak for themselves.

During the year ending September, 1844, 543 prisoners were received, of these 406 were in good health, and 137 labouring under different forms of disease. During the same period 464 were discharged, 409 of whom were in good health, and 55 suffering from disease.

Of the 487 admissions during the past year, 384 were received in good health, and 103 with disease. Of 536 discharged, 489 were in health, and 47 with disease.

These data show that the general penitentiary receives annually from the community a large amount of disease, while it returns a proportionally large number in good health, or, in other words, that the effect of our penal discipline is not to deteriorate, but rather to improve the physical condition of the criminal, a result secured only in part to his moral reformation.

Table No. 1, shows that a large proportion of the hospital cases, during the year ending September, 1843, were affections of the bowels, viz. 137 out of 309, or considerably upwards of one-third of the whole amount. These cases occurred chiefly during the months of October, November, and December, 1843, at a time when dysentery raged with extreme severity among

the lower orders throughout the island, and produced a large mortality, especially on some estates on the north side, and when, from the over-crowded state of the prison, it was particularly exposed to suffer from the ravages of that disease. The number of fatal cases from this cause was 14, or more than one-half of the whole amount of mortality for the year. Table No. 2, shows that the number of bowel complaints during last year amount only to 36, and of these only one proved fatal. The greatest number of serious cases consisted of inflammatory affections of the lungs, and occurred in the months of August and September, when the penitentiary, in common with the island in general, was visited with a severe epidemic of influenza. Few of the prisoners escaped being affected in a greater or less degree, and a large number were attacked severely. Only those in whom the attack was complicated with inflammation of the lungs could be taken into hospital, and of these nine died.

The total number of fatal cases in 1844 was 26, and the entire number under confinement, 920, showing a mortality 2·82 per cent. for that year.

In 1845, the total number under confinement was 937, and the total number of deaths 14, exclusive of two prisoners from the house of correction, who died of the prevailing influenza within a few days after their admission. Of the above 14 cases of death, one was from continued fever, one from phugedenie ulceration of leg in a constitution so broken down by disease as not to admit of amputation, one from fracture of the skull and laceration of the brain, caused by the falling of a large mass of earth.—One from dysentery, one from inflammation of the lymphatus of the leg, one from consumption, and eight from inflammatory affections of the lungs.

C. Campbell, M.D.

No. 1.—Table of Diseases treated in Hospital during the year ending September, 1843.

Abscess	3	Jaundice	1
Asthma	1	Liver, disease of	1
Apoplexy, serous	1	Mental affections	4
Bladder, chronic inflammation of	1	Pleurisy	9
Bowel complaints	137	Pneumonia	5
Bursa, disease of	1	Peritonitis	1
Bronchitis	9	Purpura	1
Consumption	5	Phagedenic ulcers	7
Contusions	6	Periostitis	1
Dropsy	2	Puromchia	3
Debility and despondency	3	Rheumatic affections	14
Eyes, disease of	10	Scald	1
Erysipelas	1	Skin disease	3
Epilepsy	2	Scurvy	5
Fracture	2	Scrophula	1
Fevers	25	Stricture	6
Genital organs, disease of	8	Sprains	7
Heart affections, (organic)	4	Wounds	4
Heart affections, (functional)	7		
Hæmoptysis	5	Total	309
Hæmatimesis	2		

No. 2.—Table of Diseases treated in Hospital during the year ending September, 1845.

Apoplexy	1	Gastritis (subacute)	5
Accidents from cutting tools	3	Hernia, strangulated	2
Anacuria Africana	1	Heart, organic diseases	4
Bladder, inflammation of	2	Heart, functional	3
Bursa, inflammation of	1	Hæmoptysis	1
Bronchitis	13	Hæmaturia	1
Carbuncle	1	Hæmorrhoids, (internal)	2
Caries—amputation of leg	1	Hepatitis	1
Catarrh, with fever	7	Jaundice	1
Consumption	5	Knee joint, inflammation of	2
Contusions	4	Lumbago	2
Cholera	1	Lymphatics, inflammation of	1
Debility	4	Mercury, effects of	1
Deranged mind	3	Neuralgia	1
Diarrhœa	16	Nephralgia	1
Dropsy	3	Pleurisy	9
Dysentery	20	Periostitis	1
Epilepsy	7	Pneumonia	15
Eyes, inflammation of	6	Pleurodynia	3
Eyes, malignant disease of	1	Prolapsus Ruti	2
Fever, continued typhoid	3	Rheumatism	8
Fever	27	Skin diseases	2
Fistula in ano	1	Stricture	3
Fracture	2	Tumor, excision of	2
Genital organs, disease of	6		
Gangrene	1		213

No. 3.—Tabular View of Fatal Cases, from 1st October, 1843, to 30th September, 1844.

Names.	Age.	Health on Admission.	Fatal Disease.	Time in Prison.	Died.
Richard Lee	30	Itch	Tubercular disease of liver	7 months	3rd October.
George Williams	..	Not known	Diarrhœa	9½ months	10th October.
George Preston	..	Not known	Consumption		10th October.
George Morgan	33	Good	Pleurisy	14½ months	27th October.
Aexander Peate	28	Good	Chronic pleurisy	2 years and 8 months	4th November.
Richard Flennie	60	Infirm; skin disease	Old age and infirmity	25 days	5th November.
Robert Kerr	..	Not known	Dysentery	12 months	12th November.
Jacob Biggs	28	Itch	Dysentery	8 months	14th November.
George Hylton	15	Good	Dysentery	1 month	17th November.
Michael Dillon	25	Good	Dysentery	27 days	18th November.
Thomas Medling	40	Ulcer of foot	Dysentery		19th December.
Billy Fisher	18	Itch	Dysentery	2½ months	21st December.
William James	..	Good	Dysentery	25 days	24th December.
Edward Richards	32	Good	Serous apoplexy	3 months	29th December.
William Henry	23	Good	Dysentery	2 months	8th January.
Thomas Berry	30	Very bad; pulmonary disease; disease of heart	Consumption	3 months	12th January.
James M'Donald	20	Good	Chronic dysentery	2½ months	17th January.
John Gillespie	26	Rheumatic pains	Diarrhœa	3½ months	12th May.
Francis Graham	35	Good	Dysentery		12th May.
Joseph M'Leary	32	Good	Dysentery	12 months	4th July.
Thomas Stephens	35	Good	Tubercular disease of pleura and bowels.	4 years and 1 month	27th July.
William Brown	25	Good	Apoplexy	8 months	30th July.
William Roberts	33	Bad	Tubercular consumption	13½ months	14th August.
James Burnside	28	Good	Dysentery	5 months	19th August.
John Thomas	..	Good	Disease of heart; sudden death.	3 years 5½ months	19th August.
Christie Taylor	14	Good	Pneumonia	11½ months	22d September.
Total	26				

No. 4.—Tabular View of Fatal Cases, from 1st October, 1844, to 30th September, 1845.

Names.	Age.	Health on Admission.	Fatal Disease.	Time in Prison.	Died.
Richard Tomlinson	30	Good	Continued fever	5 months	29th November.
George Ricketts	30	Bad	Phagedena	1 month	25th March.
Charles Gordon	30	Bad	Typhoid Pneumonia	1 month	22nd April.
James Bartley	45	Bad	Fracture of skull	20 days	9th May.
Thomas Lander	22	Indifferent	Inflamed Lympathics	1½ month	3rd July.
Francis Wilson	36	Good	Typhoid Pneumonia	5 months	10th July.
George Da Costa	44	Indifferent	Pleuro Pneumonia	8½ months	11th August.
William Scott	37	Dysentery	Dysentery	2½ months	28th August.
Adam Johnson	25	Good	Pleuro Pneumonia	16 months	29th August.
Thomas Harvey*	28	Very bad	Pleuro Pneumonia	5 days	29th August.
James Lawrence	40	Good	Pleuro Pneumonia	9½ months	30th August.
Charles Dickenson	40	Ingrunial hernia	Pleuro Pneumonia	15 days	3rd September
James Stewart	50	Enormous femoral hernia	Pleuro Pneumonia	2 months	3rd September.
John Jacobs*	18	Bad	Pleuro Phthisis	9 days	4th September.
Thomas Nesbitt	30	Bad	Pleuro Pneumonia	5 months	7th September.
Robert Black	25	Good	Pleuro Pneumonia	5 months	17th September.
Total	16				

No. 8. (No. 1.) No. 8.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone to the Officer administering the Government of Jamaica.

Sir, Downing Street, June 18, 1846.

I have received the Earl of Elgin's Despatch of the 5th of May, (No. 52,) comprising his Lordship's annual report on the state and future prospects of the Island of Jamaica.

I have followed, with deep interest, the survey which his Lordship has thus taken of that field of observation; and I gratefully acknowledge the value of the suggestions, which his great local and general knowledge has enabled him

to make, for promoting the welfare of the important colony entrusted by Her Majesty to his care.

I have, &c.,

The Officer administering the Government of Jamaica. (Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

HONDURAS.

(No. 18.) No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of ELGIN to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Jamaica, King's House, May 9, 1846.

Col. Fancourt to the Earl of Elgin. 14 April, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a Despatch from Colonel Fancourt which accompanies the Blue Book for Honduras of the year 1845.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9.

SIR, Government House, Belize, April 14, 1846.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding the accompanying documents, forming the Blue Book for this settlement, for the year 1845, upon which I shall at once proceed to make such observations as appear to be necessary.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Under the head of "Revenue and Expenditure," it will be seen that the total amount of revenue arising from every source, up to the 31st December, 1845, is 22,372*l.* 16*s.* sterling, which, being added to 5,545*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, the surplus revenue of the preceding year over and above the expenditure of that year, makes the sum of 27,918*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* Under the same head, is also exhibited a total expenditure of 18,302*l.*, which, being deducted from the former sum, leaves a balance in hand amounting to 9,616*l.* The total revenue for the year 1844 was 17,370*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, which, being added to the surplus revenue for the year 1843, made the sum 20,707*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* The total expenditure for the year 1844 was 15,162*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a balance of 5545*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* Comparing then the revenue for the year 1844, with that for 1845, without the addition in either case of the surplus of the former year, and comparing also the expenditure, it will be found that there has been an increase in the revenue for 1845 amounting to 5002*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, and an increase in the expenditure amounting to 3139*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*

Imports and Expenditure.

I shall now proceed to explain the causes of this increase of revenue, and to state the reasons why the expenses for the year 1845 have been so much greater than those for the year 1844. On reference to the tables contained under the head of "Imports and Exports," it will, I think, be manifest, that this increase is principally owing to the extraordinary stimulus which has been given to the trade in mahogany. Whilst the dry good business, which is carried on with the central Americans, a trade, which contributes comparatively little to the local revenue, there being only an *ad valorem* duty of 1 per cent. on the articles which it comprises, has been gradually declining, the mahogany trade, which creates a demand for all those articles on which the highest rate of duty is imposed, has been steadily advancing. There has been of course a proportionate demand for labour, and although that demand is far from having been satisfied, still there has been a considerable influx of labourers from various quarters, who have almost invariably been engaged at once, at exorbitant wages, and despatched to the mahogany works. An increased labouring population and high wages, are followed as a necessary consequence by an increased consumption, not only of those articles which fall under the class of necessaries, but also of those which may be termed luxuries.

In the article of sugar there has been an increase of 229*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*; in tea, 83*l.* 2*s.*; in cigars, 28*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; in tobacco, 39*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; and in wines and spirits, 3080*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, notwithstanding that the duty on wines has been reduced from 8*s.* a dozen to 4*s.* a dozen. It will be seen that, in the articles malt liquor and cider, there is a decrease of 71*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* This is, however, altogether owing to the circumstances of the duty upon those articles having been reduced one-half. The amount of duty paid upon them in 1845, at the rate of 1*s.* per dozen, or 6*d.* per gallon, is 417*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*: the amount in 1844, at the rate of 2*s.* per dozen, or 1*s.* per gallon, was 489*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* If the duty, therefore, had not been reduced, on the supposition that there would have been the same consumption, the amount would be 835*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, making an increase of 345*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* instead of a decrease of 71*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* It is evident, therefore, there has been a much larger consumption of these articles in 1845 than in 1844. That the increased demand has not been caused by the reduction of the duty is proved by the fact, that the market prices of those articles have not been diminished.

HONDURAS.

A large quantity of horned cattle are used in the mahogany works for trucking or removing the mahogany from the spot where it is cut. Another consequence, therefore, of the impetus which has been given to the mahogany trade, is the increased importation of cattle. Upon horned cattle it will be seen that there is a duty of 4*s.* sterling a head. In this branch of the revenue there is an increase of 288*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* An increase of tonnage is another result of the improvement of this trade: in this branch of the revenue there has been an increase amounting to 528*l.* 14*s.* On reference to the table under the head "Imports and Exports," it will be seen that the total number of inward vessels during the year 1845 is 136, and of tons 30,296; for the year 1844 the number of vessels inward was 113, and of tons 25,654: thus, in 1845, there is an increase in the number of vessels amounting to 23, and in the number of tons an increase amounting to 4642. The increase in the number of vessels from Great Britain, from the British colonies, and from the United States, has been about the same; but in the number of vessels from foreign states it has been in a much larger proportion. In the number of vessels from Great Britain there has been an increase of 6, and in the number of tons 3555. Comparing the increase of ships it is evident that, not only has there been a greater number of inward vessels in the year 1845 than in the year 1844, but also that the vessels generally, which have entered the port of Belize in the former year, have been of a larger class than those which entered the same port in the latter year.

With respect to ships from the British colonies, whilst there has been a decrease in the number of vessels there has been an increase of tonnage amounting to 39 tons. From the United States of America there has been an increase of 5 in the number of vessels, and 391 in the number of tons. In 1844 there were two vessels from foreign states amounting to 210 tons. In 1845 it will be observed there have been 20 vessels, amounting to 849 tons; thus making an increase of 18 in the number of vessels and 639 in the tonnage. The vessels which came from Great Britain bring, for the most part, cargoes consisting of dry goods and fancy articles for the Belize and Spanish markets, wine, spirits, gunpowder, and sometimes provisions. The vessels from the United States are chiefly laden with provisions, shingles, and lumber. The great demand for labour, and the high rate of wages occasioned by the prosperous state of the mahogany trade, have, of course, put more money into circulation, infused a spirit of activity into every branch of domestic trade, and very greatly improved the pecuniary condition of the labouring population in general. The increase of 270*l.* in the duties derivable from spirit licences is an evidence of this.

I shall now proceed to state the increase and decrease in the exports of the various kinds of wood, the produce of this settlement, during the year 1845 in comparison with those of 1844. In the export of mahogany there has been an increase of 1,708,007 superficial feet; in that of cedar a decrease of 12,037 feet; in that of logwood an increase of 50,743 tons; in that of rosewood a decrease of 185 tons and three-fourths; in that of fustic an increase of 32 tons. There has been an exportation in 1845 of 10 tons of braziletto, not any of which was exported in 1844. Of almost all other articles of traffic, there appears to have been in 1845 a very diminished exportation compared with that in the preceding year. In the exportation of cochineal there has been a decrease amounting to 2497 serons. In that of indigo a decrease of 195 serons; in that of sarsaparilla a decrease of 70,313 pounds; in that of cocoa-nuts a decrease of 117,770 nuts; and in that of hides a decrease of 4755. The causes of this increase on the one hand, and this diminution on the other, are apparent. The large prices at which mahogany has lately been sold in the English market, and the rapid fortunes which have been made in consequence, have stimulated great numbers to embark in that branch of commerce, the advancement of other walks of trade, not promising so speedy an attainment of wealth.

It is then apparent that the chief increase in the way of exports has been in mahogany; and as regards the imports, that the increased duties have been mainly derivable from such sources as spirits, wines, ale, and cyder, horned cattle, tonnage, &c., the very large amount of which duties is to be attributed, without doubt, to the increased consumption of such articles by the mahogany cutters.

The decrease in the exports of cochineal, indigo, and sarsaparilla, is to be accounted for by the great diminution of the trade with Central America. A variety of causes has produced this result. The direct importation of goods to that quarter by the Pacific, the establishment of the Belgian port of St. Thomas, and in a great degree, I am inclined to believe, the disturbed states of the Central American republics.

On a comparison of the amount of duties on unrated articles, for the years 1844 and 1845, it will be found that there is an increase in the latter year of 218*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

As this statement may appear in some degree inconsistent with the announcement which I have already made, that the trade with Central America, which consists almost exclusively of unrated articles, had fallen off, it is proper that I should observe, that the revenue derivable from this source has been kept up by the increased consumption of those articles not only within the limits of the settlement, but also in the various mahogany works belonging to Belize merchants in the Bay of Honduras without the limits, another proof of the advantages, at the present moment at all events, which Her Majesty's subjects are deriving from the exportation of mahogany.

Expenditure.

Having stated the causes of the increased revenue for 1845, I now proceed to explain why the expenditure of that year has been greater than that of the former one.

In the salaries for the year 1845, there has been an increase of 940*l.* sterling, the particulars of which will appear on a comparison of the Blue Books of 1844 and 1845. I would direct your attention to an additional payment of 388*l.* to the schoolmaster, the Rev. T. S. Reid, and also mention that the acting treasurer for the year 1844 only received half salary, whilst the entire salary has been drawn this year by the gentleman who now holds that office.

The several smaller items relating to the church, clerk of the works, clerk of the market, &c., &c., forming parts of this increase on account of salaries, will be found to be satisfactorily explained on a reference to the Blue Books for the present (1845) and the preceding year.

In the year 1844, the sum expended on public works was 1809*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* In 1845, the sum expended was 4734*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; making an increase in the latter year of 2924*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*

Under the head of public works will be perceived the sum of 591*l.* 19*s.* for repairs of the Government House, and also a sum of 600*l.* for furniture for the same. On this latter account, until my arrival in 1843, when 240*l.* was voted, which was totally inadequate for the purposes, no grant had been made for the Government House since the year 1832.

On reference to the table under the above-mentioned head, the sum 678*l.* for a house for the keeper of the powder magazine will be noticed.

The sum of 731*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* has been expended in the repairs of the parsonage.

The sum of 500*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* has been paid for new lamps for the lighthouse at Half-moon Key. They are not yet put up, owing to the dilapidated state of the lighthouse. A few months ago a Committee was sent to Half-moon Key for the purpose of surveying the condition of the lighthouse, and of making a report thereon. The Committee pronounced it to be insecure; and a new one will consequently be required. It is not yet decided whether the whole shall be composed of stone, or the basement only, and the upper part, or column, of iron. Should the latter be decided upon, it is my intention to request the Lords of the Admiralty to be so good as to procure one for the settlement, according to a plan with which I shall furnish them.

It will be seen that the estimated expense of repairing the parish church is 1200*l.*, and that 726*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* of that sum has already been expended. There has been considerable delay in the progress of this work, owing partly to the want of proper materials, and partly to the extreme difficulty of procuring efficient workmen. I am, however, happy to say, that the repairs are now rapidly advancing, and that there is a prospect of public worship being speedily celebrated therein.

It will be seen that there has been an outlay of 813*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* in endeavouring to sink a well. During three months of the year there is almost unintermitted dry weather in this settlement, which, as there are no wells, no rivulets, and the water of the river is brackish for several miles upwards, necessarily causes a great scarcity of fresh water. Every person is dependent on his own or his neighbour's tank for a supply of water, but, as the poorer classes cannot afford to provide tanks for themselves, they experience a privation, which is felt by them as a very serious calamity. The consequence is, that they, for the most part, in the dry season, are compelled to have recourse to wells about three feet in depth, from which they procure a muddy, brackish, and fœtid water, greatly deleterious to the general health, and productive of a variety of disorders.

This subject has engaged my serious attention for a considerable time past, and I earnestly addressed myself to the remedying of a privation, so distressing in its immediate effects, and so truly lamentable in its ultimate consequences. The public meeting has liberally engaged to support me in the undertaking, and a strong desire is manifested by all parties for the success of this experiment.

It will also be observed that large sums have already been expended on an iron market-house, which is in course of erection, and for which 4000*l.* has been voted, and that considerable expense has been incurred in improving the roads in the town and in its neighbourhood, and in establishing a ferry over the Belize River.

Having, at various periods, forwarded Despatches relative to the greater part of the resolutions adopted by the public meeting, and contained under the head of "Legislature," I will, at present, confine myself to that of the 16th of July, 1845, entitled, "A resolution to provide for the establishment of a savings' bank in the settlement." My attention was earnestly addressed to this subject shortly after my arrival, from observing the extremely improvident habits of the native population, their utter recklessness, and carelessness for the future.

This bank is established under the guarantee of the local legislature. Sums not exceeding 60*l.* sterling, may be received from any one person by the public treasurer, and interest at five per cent. per annum will be paid thereon. The total sum to be received by the treasurer is limited to 600*l.* sterling, 555*l.* 16*s.* of which is now in his hands. I have great reason to hope that its basis may be extended in the course of another year, and that it will eventually become a very useful institution.

Under the head of population, it will be seen that in 1845 there were 257 births, 31 marriages, and 132 deaths. In the former year there were 310 births, 27 marriages, and 161 deaths, making a decrease in the year 1845 of 53 births, of 29 deaths, and an increase of 4 marriages. From this comparison it would appear that the sanatory condition of the settlement has been pretty nearly the same in both years. I am happy to say that the number of marriages is gradually increasing, which fact seems to be an evidence of the improving moral state of the people.

Comparing the returns for the years 1845 and 1844, under the head of "gaols and prisons," it appears that in 1845 there has been a considerable decrease of crime. In 1845, taking both blacks and whites, and both sexes, there were eight confined for felony; in 1844, there were only three. But of those eight, who were in confinement in 1845, some were convicted in 1844. In 1845, there were 14 confined for misdemeanors; in 1844, there were 174. I have confined myself to those who were tried and convicted.

I am not aware of any other subject which requires to be explained by me, further than it is already explained in the book itself.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
C. St. John Fancourt.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 10. (Separate.) No. 10.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE, dated Government House, Demerara, March 31, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" for 1845. It contains the usual information under the respective heads.

Till the annual returns from the estates are received, which rarely happens till the latter end of February or beginning of March, the completion of the information from the Financial Accountant is withheld, of necessity, though in all other respects the Government Secretary's office would be ready at an earlier date.

The existence of great drought during the greatest part of the last six months of 1845 diminished the staple exports, though there was a slight excess over 1844. The drought remains unabated; it is feared that not only will it affect the crops of the current year but those of 1847.

Vide Blue Book. There has been a great increase of tonnage and shipping to this province over 1844, and a brisk trade is now carried on in cattle from the Orinoco.

The treasury of the colony has a large surplus.

Crime has not been on the increase; the Inspector-General of Police's statement gives several hundred arrests less than in 1844.

Fifty-two out of one hundred and nine convicts at the penal settlement, on the 31st day of December, 1845, are not natives of British Guiana, and only three of those sentenced by the Supreme Courts of Criminal Justice are under twenty years of age.

Internal traffic is greatly on the increase; every new arrival of Portuguese from Madeira adds to it, as well as to the imports.

In general the population in the rural districts is quiet and submissive; some unquiet spirits amongst the whites and mixed breed, of neither character nor station in society, have lately been endeavouring to impose on the thickly-inhabited districts of the east coast of Demerara, by assuming imaginary grievances, against which petitions were sent home.

Dissent has made marked progress on the east coast of Demerara, since the beginning of 1845. One clergyman of the Episcopalian Church has, with a very large congregation, seceded from the church and joined the Wesleyans; and it is to be feared that the freedom given to the wildest notions which enthusiasm calls forth as religion will be rife in this province. Dissenting ministers taking on themselves here to preach the gospel require no qualification but that of being able to collect a congregation; already one catechist of the Church of England, has led his scholars and disciples, some two or three hundred, to dissent.

Annexed is a list of places of meeting of certain followers of the Reverend Leonard Strong, a seceder from the Church of England in 1838; this is taken from a map published by this person, giving the stations of Christians who are gathered together simply in the name of Jesus.

Every year adds to the number of places of worship, either for dissent or for the Episcopalian Church; the Presbyterian establishment in this country is not missionary.

There is, I am sorry to say, very little cordiality existing amongst the various ministers of religion; and you will see by the police report above mentioned, that one class of ministers think that it is part of their duty to mix up political feeling with their religion.

With a view to this Despatch I have made several excursions since the 1st January, and shall for the present adopt the form of a journal.

On the 28th January started from George Town at 7 A. M., having provided relays of horses for the journey, and reached Mahaica at about 9 A. M., inspected the gaol, visited the cells, and the four or five prisoners confined; the gaol a model of cleanness.

Visited the new bridge in progress over Mahaica Creek; the greater part of the heavy work complete, namely, the placing and driving of the piles. The creek or river is about 70 yards wide and 40 feet deep, very rapid. Passed the Abary, the division of Demerara and Berbice, at about 2 o'clock, P. M.; was met by the rector of the parish of St. Michael, and visited, at his request, (though the schools did not form part of the object of my journey,) the chapel school of St. Albans, which has an average number of 50 scholars, mostly from the Foulis estate; the school is under English teachers, man and wife; the chapel is well attended on Sunday; Divine service performed by Mr. Cornwall.

Beyond this, eight miles distant, is the Litchfield chapel. This is capable of containing a congregation of 200 or 250. Has been built partly by the subscriptions of the villages and partly from money advanced by the Lord Bishop. It is a neat plain building, wanting still some fittings up, it being without a communion service. I desired the rector to order one, for which I would furnish payment, to the amount of 50*l*.

The village of Litchfield consists of about 150 houses; the estate was purchased by a party of labourers. Several good substantial houses, some two stories high, but many are of ordinary construction, wattled, clayed outside and thatched, but inside comfortable. I dined at an old acquaintance's, mentioned in former Despatches, Cudjoe Macpherson, to whose cottage I had ordered supplies to be sent for myself and suite, and made the villagers and himself very happy with my presence.

I slept at Fort Wellington, partly occupied by the police, partly by the rector of the parish, Mr. Cornwall, to whom I was indebted for my bed and other hospitality; there is part of this building occupied as a school, with residence for catechist and schoolmaster.

The following day, the 29th, I visited early the village of Hope Town, one mile or one mile and a half distant, consisting of at least three hundred houses, laid out in regular wide streets, the houses built continuously; some of these, however, are not equal to the cottages furnished gratuitously on estates; most of them are wattled, clayed, and thatched, but commodious; but the settlers look forward to better residences, and prudently house themselves at the least expense. The population is estimated at from 1,500 to 2,000; they have extensive provision grounds, and work on the neighbouring estates. The parish church is in the immediate neighbourhood, and the school at Fort Wellington is open to the children; from the honest and intelligent bearing of these people, they had felt the advantages of emancipation, without any appearance of disposition to retrograde.

Many of the inhabitants, however, of this village are members of the London Missionary Chapel at Rothbury, a very fine building, capable of containing 1000 to 1200 persons, two or three miles nearer to the Berbice River.

From this chapel to the estates bordering the river, are numerous settlements in their infancy, some good substantial houses; but the generality, of humbler pretensions. Having breakfasted at the Berbice Ferry, 16 miles from Fort Wellington, at about 10 o'clock, I embarked in the police boat to visit the new settlements on the west bank of the river, within compass of the day. First to Ithaca, a large village beyond Blairmont and Balthyock, the properties of Colonel Stopford Blair: it resembles Hope Town, though somewhat larger, with streets well laid out, good houses, and of inferior sort; the population actively engaged in cleaning out their trenches, making up their roads, &c.

It is situated in the parish of St. Catherine; but most of the inhabitants attend a large chapel, served by the London Missionary, Froom, who has also a school in the village, with an average attendance of 150 people; very creditable to both missionary and the inhabitants; the pupils full of life, and anxious to show their proficiency.

Here, as might be expected, many cases of incurable tropical diseases were seen: the relatives of the younger inhabitants, who naturally enough prefer remaining with their friends than seeking relief in the public hospitals or receptacles for the incapacitated; they do the light work of the houses, and though painful to see, yet legislation cannot interfere where mendicity or public exposure does not trench on public rights.

BRITISH GUIANA.

I then rowed to Caboor, eight miles distant; this is of late establishment, and being so, the houses are as yet of inferior appearance; there are about 150 inhabitants; the minister of the parish, Presbyterian, has attempted the establishment of a school, which I saw in operation, having about twenty scholars. I refer you respectfully to a copy of his letter annexed on the state of education and religion in his parish; you will there read the difficulties he has to contend with, from the neglect of the parish by former incumbents, from other circumstances over which he has no control, and from the great extent of his parish. One part of his report has struck me, as it will yourself, that though the parish has been many years in existence, the church has been without communion plate. I have remedied this evil out of the contingencies, which I trust will be approved. The minister of this parish with his brother, minister of All Saints, Berbice, has set an example of zeal and fearless risk of the climate, which I wish was followed by other brethren of the Presbyterian Ministry. I shall here remark, as I may elsewhere, that the banks of the river are dotted with hamlets and detached houses from Ithaca to Cauboor, on land not bought of the Crown, and whose owners, by this isolation from one another, are much more likely to retrograde, than when united, as on the Crown lands of Highbury, of which I shall have occasion to descant.

It was near eight P.M. before I returned to New Amsterdam, impeded by heavy tides on my return from the last-mentioned village.

January 30th, I left New Amsterdam to proceed by land to Highbury. Hamlets, villages, habitations, at short intervals, the whole way to Plantation Friends, belonging to Messrs. Laing, eight miles from New Amsterdam: as there were captured Africans, I stopped there, and inspected about 90, located at different periods on this estate, who work well, gain from one-quarter to three-quarters of a dollar per diem. They well know the value of their time and labour, and were rather discontented that I did not pay them for the time they lost by my visit: they complained of the price of provisions, which were at that moment, from the drought and panic in England, unusually high.

The Messrs. Laing have put to the test a new mode of making sugar, by a revolving cylinder of copper bars, creating evaporation at a low temperature; if the quality of the sugar be in proportion to the grain produced, the result must be great beyond the ordinary mode.

From Friends to Highbury is about six miles, where the road, if road it can be called, terminates; however, the carriage did not break down. At Highbury, I inspected about 60 Africans, who seemed in excellent condition, and, as at the Friends, did not like losing their day's work.

There is an Episcopalian chapel at Deutichum, this side of Highbury, whose curate has a school on the Highbury estate, where many of the Africans attend.

I took boat at Highbury, and proceeded to the first settlement bought of the Crown.

I found a large number of inhabitants employed in repairing and trenching the front dam. I will not say that the settlement has the same civilized aspect as Ithaca, Hope Town, or Litchfield. The purchasers had to cut down bush, clear and drain. Doing this, a large number of them must naturally be abstracted from estate labour, and must have been living on their own resources; they have built in the clearances; yet when we read of the wretched huts of settlers built in America, in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, by men far removed above the offspring of Dutch slaves, who escaped a few years only ago from bondage, the habitations on "Light Town," which I found was the name this new settlement had obtained, did not strike me as being symptomatic of retrogression: 300 people, and upwards, had congregated together; they were indignant at being supposed to wish to wish to live idle; they said they could not do everything at once; they had erected a building for a temporary place of worship, till they could afford a better; they did not like the late manager at Highbury, and therefore would not work on the estate; they were to be found in all parts of the county where work was to be had, and they knew their own right of choice. With regard to the other tracts of Crown land purchased, the bush had to be cut down, and the soil planted; when complete, there would be a continuation of houses on the banks of the river for at least a mile. The present manager of Highbury had promised to cut a road,

or path, from Highbury to the settlement, and he was disposed to think that their feud with the former manager would not be carried on with him. When you read what Mr. Bell says of his parish, on opposite side of river, filled with abandoned coffee estates, habited at large intervals by a scattered population, you will be disposed, I respectfully trust, to think that the migration from one side of the river to the other of a large body to inhabit one united district, is a proof of advance rather than retrogression; and there I close my remarks on the sales of Crown land at Highbury, adding only this, that the purchasers at these sales might have had twice as much land on any one of the plantations abandoned on the opposite side of the river, and of which the owners would have had little scruple in the selling on the score of fears of retrogression, though at half price.

We had a long pull to reach Mara, the last sugar estate in the river, about 30 miles from New Amsterdam. We mourned over the desolation on each side of the river, where once flourished rich fertile coffee estates, from New Amsterdam to our destination. Many of the estates were of considerable extent, and had fine buildings, steam-engines for cleaning and preparing the coffee crop. This staple is almost gone; its fall dates from the withdrawal or diminution of protection to British plantation coffee; thence its reduction in price in the British market; and grown where labour is cheaper than in British Guiana, the produce was undersold, to the ruin of the coffee-growers of the province.

Having slept at Mara, the following day, 31st January, I visited the Africans, 150 in number, on the Mara estate. I have more than once spoken of this large establishment, a sort of oasis amidst the desolation, which the enterprise of the owners, Messrs. Laing, has brought into existence. It would surprise persons disposed to find defective intelligence in the uneducated black, to see how soon it is developed when brought into contact with higher civilization; money, dress, and full liberty, they highly appreciate, and example makes them desirous of learning to read.

The proprietor, Mr. Laing, bitterly complained of Mara Chapel being abandoned; that during 18 months it had only been once visited by the Scotch minister of the parish, and that 10 months ago. The consequence of this has been, that a London Missionary chapel has been built by the inhabitants of the Mara estate and district, capable of containing 1000 persons; its interior is not quite finished; but when it is so, the State church will have no congregation.

The object of my visit to Berbice was here completed. I returned by boat to Highbury, and there got into my carriage to return to New Amsterdam, where I arrived time enough to visit the jail and hospital, hold a levee, and transact ordinary business. The hospital, under the charge of Dr. Beresford, though much inferior in size to those of George-town, is admirably arranged, and now furnishes the same useful statistics as those of George-town. The almshouse is under the immediate control of the sheriff, and is, with the jail, in the highest order.

I returned to George-town the following day. The roads have been much neglected, and till Mahaica is reached, often dangerous to pass; from Mahaica to George-town, except where the front dams have given way, as good as any in England: a new line of road, however, is about to be taken up, and bridges to be thrown over the various ferries on the road to Berbice, which will, I trust, facilitate a communication with the sister county, the want of which is complained of.

Having determined to visit the emigrants from India located on the Arabian coast, I left George-town on the 17th ultimo for Aurora, on the left bank of the River Essequibo. I have thought it more to the benefit of these people and their employers to leave them free from indentures; consequently, the liberty they thus acquired has made many of them wander from one estate to another; and a good number have quitted the coast altogether, seeking employment on the islands of Essequibo, and on the east and west coast of Demerara. I do not believe indentures would have prevented this, and it would have encouraged idleness; secure of food, why should they work? When larger numbers shall have arrived, the desire for change will be checked.

BRITISH GUIANA.

I visited every estate from Spring Garden, the extreme on the river, to Better Success, a distance of about 30 miles, the last estate on the Arabian coast where Coolies were located. Some of the estates had received large additions from others, who were in like proportion denuded; it is sufficient that some leading man of a gang proposed a removal to secure compliance. It has not led to much inconvenience. According to calculation, 641 underwent my inspection out of 816 originally located; the balance, 175, have gone to Wakenhaam, to the west coast of Demarara, and a few of them to the east coast of same county.

Having a high-caste Hindoo with me as an interpreter, I was enabled to hear their complaints, and to give them advice, and to enforce it by the influence his caste gave to his explanations.

I observed with great satisfaction that few had sores, having been warned of the consequences of neglecting to keep themselves clear of the infesting chigos; they were generally in healthy condition, though, according to the report of some of the managers, their parsimonious habits made them seek the fruits and roots of the country for food rather than purchase it. They complained of the dearness of rice, which, in comparison with its cost in India, is great. There was at the time great scarcity; and to prevent the absolute want of it in the colony, the Court of Policy very prudently paid a high price for a large portion of the cargo of one of the emigrant ships, which, but for the good market afforded here, was intended for England.

I encouraged them to remain on their different locations, cultivate their gardens, and they would have no occasion to purchase; many of them actually set to work before I left the coast, as advised by me; and with regard to their gains, I had many instances given me of their handing over to the managers 20, 30, and 40 dollars, to be treasured for them, earned since August last.

I had little difficulty in explaining to many of these people, who, cunningly enough, wanted to be put on rations as well as wages, that it was against their interests; for the idle would then gain as much as the industrious; that having food, the idle would leave the work to the able-bodied and diligent.

The casualties by death since the first arrival to the time of my visit has been very trifling. When any cases of prolonged or severe illness occur, the patients are sent up with due care to the colonial hospital; and when any stray sick men are found, I have directed the sheriff of the county to place them in the first instance in the jail hospital, to be under the medical attendance of the surgeon.

In the course of this excursion, not unattended with considerable fatigue and exposure, I had an opportunity of seeing the progress of increase in villages, hamlets, and habitations; the older ones assuming, since my last Report, No. 248, November 30th, 1844, a still greater appearance of prosperity. Daniel's-town, then in its infancy, has now numerous well-built houses; and at Dartmouth (front lands of), having been requested to give a name to a new village, I took the liberty of calling it Gladstoneville, explaining the cause: even here the villagers had taken care there should be a school.

On the 21st February I left Aurora, and embarked on board the steamer which was bound to the penal settlement, with the Commissioners, Messrs. Young and Croal; Mr. White, member of the Court of Policy; Mr. Conyers, a financial representative. There is little more to be said on the magnificent mass of waters, whose course I have in former Despatches described, rolling amongst innumerable islands. No population has been added to this river. One mass of rich foliage clothing each bank, each land, by which the traveller passes. The total absence of bird, animal, living being, or barque, render the scene almost painful, until you approach the penal settlement, then some degree of life is seen. The river becomes a great lake by the union of the Massarooni and the Cayoonee pouring themselves into the Essequibo. The land becomes high. Bartica village and church, with the adjoining land, form one side of the lake. The circle is closed by the right bank of the Essequibo, at least eight miles distant.

Every annual visit I have made to the penal settlement has presented to me great improvements. I transmit a new plan of it in its improved state. A new prison (stone) for 80 convicts has been added, thus enabling complete classification of the convicts; 200 acres of ground have been cleared, upwards of

100 acres of which have been planted. Had the drought not occurred, the prisoners would have been fed without expense for 6 months out of 12.

A wharf is nearly complete to allow vessels at any time of tide to discharge or take in their cargoes; a causeway for bringing stone from the different quarries is in great progress.

The Commissioners, under whose satisfactory control the affairs of the penal settlement are arranged, have directed several saw-pits, of which two already are complete, to be prepared—not only as a powerful mode of hard labour, but towards payment of the expenses of this noble establishment, which in the present demand for timber is likely to be considerable. Without the directing hand of the Commissioners, although the superintendent does his duty effectively and fearlessly, yet I could not have secured such method and regularity as now exist in everything relating to it.

It is a matter of surprise to every visitor to see a dozen or more stout convicts, armed with pickaxes, iron bars, and even cutlasses, unshackled, moving to their work under a single guard, who carries nothing in defence but a constable's staff. The moral influence of the place, the conviction that every attempt to escape after an act of violence would be hopeless, give perfect security from revolt; at least it has done so hitherto. If, however, hereafter, my views respecting this place as a receptacle for the felons of the West Indies be carried out, greater precautions must be used, and probably a detachment of soldiers may be necessary.

For health there is no spot in the colony better, as is shown by the surgeon's reports.

The day after my arrival was Sunday, when I crossed to Bartica village, a Church of England mission under the society of that name; it has not increased in size; the chapel was filled by a congregation, not larger than formerly, of decent-dressed Indians and half castes, with the children of both sexes educated at the school.

It is difficult to reclaim an adult Indian; his attendance at chapel requires decent clothing, but he is too happy to throw it off. I question whether any permanent benefit to the agriculture or commerce of the colony will result from this mission, yet it is highly creditable to the Church Missionary Society, by which it was instituted and continues to be maintained, and I shall be glad if my ideas are mistaken.

The Church of England missions in the Pomaroon River, county of Essequibo, and in Mahaicony River, county of Demerara, are not so intermixed with half-caste people as in the mission at Bartica; and, although the facility with which the Indians can reach the cultivated estates from each of these missions is nearly equal, the two former are likely to supply a greater number of industrious persons than Bartica, although the latter mission is maintained at a far greater cost than the former.

We retraced our steps and embarked on the 23rd February for Georgetown, leaving, with regret, the varied and wide expanse of scene which the union of three great rivers offers.

Having visited Berbice chiefly with the object of inquiry into the state of the independent settlements on the river, in which some 300 or 400 acres of Crown land had been but small part of the sales effected on the river for such settlements, I took the first opportunity after my return from the penal settlement to make personal observation on the free settlements on the River Demerara, and on the west coast Demerara.

I confined myself first to the left bank, having sometime ago visited the villages on the right bank, as far as Craig village, where all progress by land terminates. Nothing can be more cheerful or gratifying than the sight of the villages sprung up at Rome, Peter's Hall, beyond which, till the neighbourhood of Craig's village is reached, there are few settlements on the high roads but the banks of one of the great draining canals, called No. 3, invite numerou, settlers.

Craig's village, established four or five years ago on the site of an abandoned estate, is now a large irregularly built village containing a population of 1000 to 1500. It has an Episcopalian place of worship; one of followers of Mr. Strong; one of Wesleyans; but with these proofs (with the addition of schools) of the desire for religious and moral instruction, some of the cottages

BRITISH GUIANA.

are not one iota better than those at "Light's Town," in Berbice, though the signs of abundant cultivation of the land is to be seen in the former rather than the latter place.

The labourers give their labour to the estates on both sides of the river, and it is notorious that the estates benefit largely by this vicinity.

On the 23rd ult. I crossed the river Demerara to visit the settlements on the left bank. There is a tolerable carriage-road to Chantilly, the extreme sugar estate but one on that side of the river; beyond, however, at a distance of 16 miles, is another sugar estate, called Glasgow, from which all communication is cut off, except by water; the intervening space being occupied by labourers, who have either purchased lands in common, or plots of land, of proprietors, who are too happy to sell their unproductive and abandoned land to labourers, without considering whether it be for the benefit of civilization or not to make these sales.

On the road to Chantilly, I saw successively estates and portions of land. 1st, Free and Easy, 250 acres. 2nd, Plantation Hermitage; part sold to the negroes. 3rd, Plantation Reivestein, abandoned sugar estate, part sold to the negroes. 4th, Plantation Catherina, bush lot, purchased by a negro at execution sale, who is retailing the land to the labourers in small lots.

Beyond Chantilly is L'Harmonie, sold to two brothers, subdivided into lots, which, with Strick en Heuvel, formed the termination of my day's journey (an estate purchased by negroes).

Now, here are large and extensive provision-grounds, with inferior cottages, two chapels, and schools. You see a number of children, some old people, and a sprinkling of able-bodied labourers; but there is a population of perhaps 1000 or upwards. You ask, where are the inhabitants, and are told they are gone to work. Down the river, or across the river, in the Islands of Essequibo, or elsewhere, I did not quarrel with them for having rather inferior habitations to those of settlers near the towns. Again, beyond the last-named place, Strick en Heuvel, to Plantation Glasgow, are hamlets, villages, and settlements, or land purchased wholesale or in lots, but generally the former.

This must naturally take away a portion of hands from the cultivation of the staples; yet from these settlements do the timber-cutters, firewood-cutters, charcoal-burners, all very necessary points in civilization, obtain their labourers, who, at those more distant points from estates, put their industry equally to account, as if in field-work.

In some parts of the river district there was a deficiency both of religious and moral instruction; naturally enough till wants of this sort were made known; but this subject is attracting the attention of the different faiths in the community, and the want is likely to cease.

I returned to George-town tolerably fatigued with the drive, and various perambulations on foot, over a soil that had been without rain, with rare exception, from the month of August last. On the 24th, again crossed from George-town to visit what is called the west coast, Demerara.

There are villages of magnitude at Den Amstel and Vrees en Hoop, now Stewartville; the first with 150 cottages, the second, 100. Smaller villages exist at Nouvelle Flanders, Fellowship, front lands of Anna Catherina, and elsewhere. In many of these are excellent houses, probably built by head men of estates, mechanics, engineers, and others of very inferior construction; but the object gained, independence. They take care to have good provision-grounds, a roof over their heads, and put off to a future day the luxury of their neighbours.

Greenwich Park, the extreme estate of the west coast, in cane cultivation, has been let, I understand, to the labourers, for three years. What the terms of lease I know not; but the planters of the district augur nothing successful to either party.

Beyond Greenwich Park are the abandoned plantations, Good Hope, Ruby, Farm, Liedestein, Bushy Park, Orangestein, Pareika, extending several miles up the Essequibo river. The largest portion of these plantations have been bought by labourers, in common, or by two or three, as original proprietors, to deal out to every purchaser.

The carriage-road ceases a few yards beyond Greenwich Park. I, however, walked through the grounds of the Ruby, where cultivation lorded over the

habitations rather than these over the former. The houses were hidden amidst the richness of every tropical edible; a mine of wealth to the people; which puts them above every personal want, and makes their industry, when applied to the staples, still more praiseworthy. That much of their industry is thus given is well known; yet at seasons they can supply themselves from the Buonaseeri and Buona Sica creeks, at short distances, with fish, which they barbicur, or eat fresh, to last for at least two months out of the twelve.

Of the few inhabitants I saw in this village, I met one, a female, with a large number of fish strung together, which she carried in each hand. The weight together could not have been less than from 15 to 20 pounds. She had been out for a few hours to one of the creeks; had taken them not by hook or spear, but by hacking them with her cutlass.

Beyond Ruby I thought it unnecessary to go; the same rich productions of the tropics, the same unpretending houses, the same independence. The Crown had no land here; yet the labourers have found it to their advantage to buy all or part of these estates; the sellers not caring one mite whether they retrograded or not. All that the Government can do in these cases is to endeavour to secure moral and religious instruction, when the inhabitants are too poor or too indifferent to obtain such from their own resources.

As regards this district of Demerara, chapels and schools are not deficient. The Episcopalian church of St. Swithin's stands near the river's bank; between which and Greenwich Park, two and twenty miles, are two large London Missionary chapels, schools and residence for the missionary, two chapels of the Episcopalian Church, and one Presbyterian parish church (St. Luke's), which sends out no succursal. In former experience I know the parish churches are filled; and, from report, which I have no doubt is correct, the other places of worship are well attended.

Having the date here above given, I respectfully submit you have means afforded of judging how far the sales of Crown lands can possibly affect the civilization of this colony, more than the numerous purchases from private individuals of large tracts of land in distant points of the province. The Crown has, in my humble opinion, strengthened as it has been by the opinions of the colonial law officers of the Crown, no more claim, under the existing land regulations, to refuse to sell its land to one or two individuals, than it has to prevent proprietors of valueless land turning it to account in any way that is not contrary to law.

The adjournment of the Court of Policy during the sessions of the Supreme Court at Berbice, gave me time for visiting the islands of Leguan and Wakenhaam, in the Essequibo, to inspect the newly-located Coolies in the former place, and the progress of free settlements in both.

In Leguan 11 estates have received Coolies, from 20 to 30 each; on two, in isolated parts of the island, there was not the discipline or attention paid to them that existed on the other; determined drunkenness seemed to reign there. I have directed the stipendiary magistrate to remove the people to other estates, if he finds that they still continue unruly and ill behaved.

The long-continued drought has so arrested the labour of the estates, that in general there is little employment for hands. On estates whose means are not embarrassed, labour is created in various ways; but where means are limited, the object of the attorneys and managers is to save useless expenditure; labour is there reduced to its minimum; amongst other causes of complaint, that of not being allowed to earn a double task was expressed.

In general where the Coolies are sober, they are remarkably free from sores; when the Coolies were mustered for my inspection, there always appeared with them an old negress, who seemed as anxious about their appearance as the manager; the care of keeping the feet clear of the infesting chigo, is made by both of first necessity.

Of the 11 estates supplied with emigrants, 10 received them in February, one on the 25th instant. The attorney of two or three estates of the earlier location has already been entrusted with money earned by these people, to transmit to their friends in India.

Leguan lost more of its labouring population after emancipation in 1838 than many other districts, and its productiveness has therefore diminished greatly; parties now lament their want of foresight in not selling from the

BRITISH GUIANA.

beginning, what is now general, lots of land on the estates, which would have prevented the constant withdrawal of the labourers, who purchased land in common either on the river Demerara or on the east coast.

The whole island, as well as Wakenhaam, is now covered with hamlets, villages, and free settlements, and many of its former population are now returning; the location of the Coolies, added to a supply of Africans formerly distributed amongst the estates, would have increased the crops this year considerably but for the drought.

On the 28th I crossed the river to Wakenhaam. Though still greatly in want of labour, this island has not suffered so muchs as Leguan; it is better supplied with fresh water, and the cane-fields were less affected by the drought. The Coolies whom I expected to find here, wanderers from the Arabian coast, went off in a body to the West Coast Demerara, where they are now located.

Having made an inspection of the gaol, which, like the other rural places of confinement, is almost tenantless, I drove round the greatest part of the island, embarked and returned to Leguan, thence to George-town.

In the free settlements both at Leguan and Wakenhaam, there are ill-constructed huts and well-built cottages, endless provision grounds, bespeaking plenty; and there, as elsewhere, the inhabitants give their labour to the neighbouring estates. Shops are to be found at every half mile, as I have said in my Report in 1845, "internal traffic to every door."

In the course of these pages you will read that I have gone over the greatest part of the province; there is nothing that bespeaks retrogression; new sources of riches are presenting themselves unthought of in former days. A most valuable earth has been discovered, giving a blue dye, which is occupying the attention of chemists at home. Large exports of hemp from the plantain stalk are in contemplation, and the farina from the fruit is likely to be invaluable, both as a substitute for arrow-root, potato-flour, and for making printer's gum.

The Annual Report of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, which will either follow or accompany this Despatch, will prove that the Society has not been idle. Useful lectures on agriculture have been given in George-town by Dr. Sheir, the agricultural chemist, who is now repeating them in Essequibo, and will thence proceed to Berbice for the same purpose.

Our observatory attracts attention at home, and is the means of improving the minds of many young men, to whom such an establishment would have been unknown; the observer is diligent, and fully equal to every astronomical, meteorological, and magnetic observation, though he is zealously assisted, when requisite, by several of the leading medical men and others to whom the science is an amusement, and who are desirous that a taste for that science should be cultivated.

The internal prosperity of this colony, as regards the mass, is undoubted. I had flattered myself that the crisis of the planters had passed; they have yet to recover from that dispensation of Providence, drought, which has for so many months affected the plantations.

More sanguine persons than others have said that the long existence of the drought will have acted on the soil as a hard winter in Europe, so pulverized the earth, that the first rains will penetrate at once to the roots, and thus speedily restore the dried up vegetation. With a fervent hope that this may be the case, I close my Despatch.

TOBAGO.

(No. 5.) No. 11. No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Government House, Barbados, March 7, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you a copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago, together with a General Report on the state of that island. No. 15; Feb. 14, 1846. General Report, Feb. 12, 1846.

The method of bringing the annual estimates of expenditure before the Assembly is, in one main respect, more regular and constitutional than the practice in Barbados, where a Finance Committee is, indeed, usually appointed in each session, which makes a report, including a loose estimate of the expenditure for 12 months in advance; but in consequence of this report having made its appearance towards the end of the year, it has of late years been necessary that the annual Export and Import Duties' Bill should be so hurried on the heels of the report, that no debate has taken place on the estimates. On the other hand, the inconvenience complained of by the Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago, that the contingent expenses of one year are not paid until the next rarely arises in Barbados, where much of the expenditure, as the judicial and magisterial salaries, and those of the clergy, are permanent; and the contingent expenses of the gaol and police are provided for by Boards who have authority to draw orders for them; and a good deal of other expenditure, of which the amount is uncertain, and so far contingent, is also authorized by the colonial enactments.

With respect to the fees of the island of Tobago, which are mentioned on page 2 of the General Report, I had a good deal of correspondence about them with the late General Darling, and I suggested to the present Lieutenant-Governor, shortly after his return to the West Indies, that he should state his view of that correspondence and of the whole subject. His present recommendation that a comparative table of the fees in the five Windward Islands should be formed appears to me to be a very good one, and I shall endeavour to have it carried into execution; but the clerks here, both in the Colonial Secretary's Office and in that of the Private Secretary of the Governor, have at present more work upon their hands than they can well get through.

The militia of the Windward Islands is a subject of anxious consideration with me at present, and I fear it is beset with difficulties. The number in Tobago appears to be sufficiently high with reference to the population, for it is two and a half per cent. on the whole of the men, women, and children of the island. The only plan in which I have any confidence is that the militias, both in their numerical proportion to the population, and in every other respect, should be closely assimilated to the militia of the United Kingdom.

The omission of Tobago from Parliamentary grants in aid of education has become of less consequence than it was before the cessation of those grants, upon which I shall shortly have to address the Secretary of State in answer to a circular of Lord Stanley's, and I shall then submit my general view of the matter.

The statement in the General Report, as to the improvement in the condition of the gaol is very gratifying, as the late Lieutenant-Governor and myself found it necessary to make some urgent representations on the defective arrangements of it to the Assembly; and with respect to the insufficiency of the building for the due separation of the prisoners, I expect that we shall have some useful suggestions from Mr. Hall Pringle, who has recently gone as a stipendiary magistrate to Tobago from Jamaica, where Lord Elgin, by my desire, had requested him to inform himself fully as to the penitentiary system established there under the immediate superintendence of Mr. Daughtrey, the Inspector-General of Prisons.

TOBAGO.

Upon the long agitated schemes for a penal settlement I remain of opinion that the labour of convicts, if employed upon waste Crown lands, might be made to repay the expenses of transportation to the island in which the lands should be situated, and those of the maintenance of the convicts; but on this subject also I expect to have occasion to write more fully, as the Assembly of Barbados has passed a Bill, on which the question will arise whether Her Majesty's Government will allow these colonies, at their own cost, to send convicts to any of the existing penal settlements within the empire. I have no notion that it ever could be worth while for the West Indian Islands to incur the expense of merely "interchanging" their convicts.

Her Majesty's Government will observe with satisfaction that the jealousy which a few years ago was so keenly felt in Barbados, as to the emigration of the labourers, is on the decline. I have not heard a single complaint as to the loss of the 600 labourers who are stated in the report to have gone to Tobago in the course of the last year, except in a few cases where boys were induced to emigrate without the consent or knowledge of their parents.

I am apprehensive that the system of cottage proprietors in Tobago must, sooner or later, produce the evils usually attendant on a general occupation of land by classes who are not assisted by landlords, nor have themselves any capital or credit by which they can improve either land or buildings, or keep them in tolerable condition. But these considerations are connected with a field of inquiry and discussion too extensive to be entered upon this occasion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES EDWARD GREY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 11.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Government House, Tobago,
14th February, 1846.

SIR,

Blue Book, 1845, and relative Report.

REFERRING your Excellency to my Despatch No. 13, of the 4th instant, I have now the honour to forward a duplicate copy of the Blue Book, accompanied by my own report for the year 1845.

In this statement I have confined my remarks principally to those subjects which I conceived to be of much public interest, and respecting which I have had an opportunity to become more intimately acquainted with. But the short period of my residence in this colony has obliged me to pass over many other heads of statistical information which I purpose to embrace more fully in my next annual report.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) L. GRÆME, Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir Charles Edward Grey, G.C.H.,
Governor in Chief, Barbados.

(A true copy.)
T. F. PILGRIM, Private Secretary.

Taxes and Duties.

THE permanent revenue of Tobago is derived from a duty of 5 per cent. *ad. val.* on all imports, on spirit licenses, licenses under the Pedlar and Hucksters' Act, and from a tonnage duty on shipping. The taxes in aid of this fixed revenue are raised by an annual "Bill of Supply," which is usually passed in February or March.

At the close of the year the treasurer presents to the executive the accounts rendered against the public, and these documents are then referred to an audit board of the Privy Council for their report.

The total expenditure for the incoming year is ascertained by a calculation embracing the salaries of the ecclesiastical, judicial, and other civil officers for the current year, and the contingent expenses of the previous one, and an estimate of the whole prepared by the colonial secretary.

This estimate is then transmitted by the Lieutenant-Governor to the House of Assembly, wherein it undergoes a severe scrutiny with every variety of alteration and amendment which the representative body may think fit to make.

To meet the expenditure when finally adjusted, the revenue derived from the permanent duties of the former year is taken as a guide; and the scale or rates of the "Annual Tax Bill" is so regulated as to supply any deficiency in the amount of the fixed revenue to discharge the various claims against the public.

Whatever may be the advantage of this practice, and I readily admit its merits, it appears

to me so far objectionable in as much as it provides only for the salaries of the public servants for the current year, deferring the payment of the contingent expenses to be provided for by the "Supply Bill" for the ensuing year, which leaves the most needy class of public creditors unpaid for a period probably of 12 or 15 months.

Fees.

The docket of fees chargeable by the public departments is regulated generally by the respective superior officers of the law courts; those of the Chancery and ordinary courts being defined by the executive as chancellor and ordinary, and those in the Court of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas by the judges, but many others are imposed under the authority of special "Acts" of the island legislature.

These "dockets," it is presumed, are generally struck, reference being had to the amount of salary received by the public functionary to whose department or office they relate, and therefore the fees cannot with any justice be discontinued or reduced without the substitution of a reasonable equivalent; a disposition has, however, been manifested to question the legality of all fees which are not levied by virtue of an express statute.

To put a stop to these disputes, which do infinite injury in a small community, I would respectfully suggest that the whole subject should undergo revision, with a view to assimilate the schedules of fees under the Windward Island government.

The docket to be struck by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, subject, if need be, to the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Revenue and Expenditure.

I have already, under the head of taxes and duties, adverted to the manner in which the estimates for the year are prepared and provided for. So long therefore as the incidental or contingent expenses are paid in arrear, the colonial revenue can seldom (except under very peculiar and unforeseen circumstances) fall short of the expenditure; but, on the other hand, we must not look for any considerable surplus in the treasury after the demands against the public have been liquidated.

The income for the year 1845 amounted to 8,528*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, the disbursements to 8,402*l.* 7. 6*d.*, leaving in the hands of the treasurer an excess of 125*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*

The income of the year 1844 was nearly 11,000*l.* sterling; but as it was found necessary to raise only 8,500*l.* for the service of the year 1845, the "Annual Supply Bill" was so modified as barely to cover that amount. This at once satisfactorily accounts for the apparent falling off in the revenue for this year, and explains the cause of difference in the comparative revenue of the two years.

Military Expenditure.

The Queen's regular forces enjoy no colonial allowances whatever; neither does the colony bear the expense of maintaining or repairing the military defences.

The militia consists of one regiment of infantry, a troop of cavalry, and a company of artillery; the total strength of this force, inclusive of officers, is only 350. The adjutant and quarter-master are the only paid officers, and receive annually 50*l.* sterling each.

The utility of this body has of late years been greatly under-rated in these colonies, and I always viewed the disbanding of the militia in the year of freedom as an impolitic measure. As an auxiliary to the police, the militia is a much more efficient force than the troops of the line, and their services in case of fire or hurricane are invaluable.

All males above the age of 18 and under 50 are liable to serve if freeholders, or tenants of houses of the annual value of 12*l.* sterling, or if in the receipt of 15*l.* sterling a-year derivable from a trade or profession.

In Tobago many negroes enjoy one or other of these military qualifications; and, apart from other reasons, it may be worthy of consideration how far the admission of this class into the service may tend to raise them in their own estimation, and in the scale of society, and whether it may not be a means of elevating their condition, and assisting to create amongst the emancipated class a respectable yeomanry.

The "Militia Act," which is very defective, is about to be repealed, and an amended Bill introduced, which I hope may have the effect of placing this useful body on a more respectable and efficient footing.

Education.

I now come to a very interesting portion of my report, namely, the Christian and moral instruction of the negro population; a subject justly worthy of the most serious reflection, and upon which it has with great truth been said that the soundness of the fruit to be gathered from the tree of freedom mainly depends.

In this Colony there are no less than 18 public schools, to which are admitted, at a very trifling charge, all those children whose parents may be willing to have them educated in the primary rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Of these 18 institutions, nine are under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, seven in charge of the Wesleyan, and two of the Moravian Missions. The former establishments are almost entirely supported by grants of the local legislature, and by contributions hitherto received from societies in the mother country. The island legislature last year voted them 220*l.* sterling, and 65*l.* 10*s.* was received from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The Wesleyan and Moravian academies are entirely dependent on resources drawn from the parent societies in England, and the scanty gatherings of voluntary contributions in the colony.

I have visited and narrowly inspected the public schools, and notwithstanding the difficulties they labour under from want of funds, I feel bound to admit that in point of instruction, orderly behaviour, and respectable appearance, the children trained at the Moravian missions have the superiority, and the Wesleyans the second place.

In a despatch addressed to the Governor-in-Chief on the subject of education, I have already adverted to the circumstance of this island not having received of late years any portion of the

TOBAGO.

annual Parliamentary Grant for the purposes of negro education; and although now too late to open the question, I beg to refer to the "Educational Returns" transmitted by the clergy, for the year 1845, from which it will be seen that this island has been again excluded from any participation in this grant.

The subject of education is now under the consideration of the colonial legislature, and I have reason to hope that the question will be fairly discussed without exclusion of any religious persuasion, and that all the school establishments throughout the island, which are conducted upon sound Christian and moral principles, may alike benefit from any grants of monies voted by the House of Assembly for the instruction of the negro population.

Agriculture.

The rich deep soil and the natural humidity of the climate are extremely favourable to the cultivation of the sugar cane, which is pursued to as great an extent as the command of *continuous* field labour will admit. An agricultural society has been established with a view to encourage the application of mechanical power to the cultivation of the soil, and to stimulate in every possible way the extension and improvement of the staple produce of the island.

At the ploughing matches, and in the exhibition of stock at the half-yearly meetings, the negroes are afforded an opportunity of competing for the prizes, which cannot fail, by the encouragement of an honest emulation, to have a beneficial effect. Much, however, remains to be done to place the cultivation of Tobago upon an equality with the older, although, in regard to soil and climate, less favoured colonies.

Gaols and Prisons.

There is only one gaol in use for the whole island, which is situated in the town of Scarborough. The building is too small to admit of classification to the extent required by the prison regulations; but in other respects the gaol of Tobago is free from objection, and being conveniently placed, is under the constant eye of the higher authorities. I have been much pleased not only with the internal arrangements, but also by the attention paid to the inmates, whose cleanliness and general appearance reflect much credit on the superintending officers.

Unhappily we are unable to make a sufficient distinction between the employment of offenders sentenced to hard labour for minor offences, and the criminal who, by a commutation of punishment, has narrowly escaped the gallows; and in these colonies, where we are without the means of carrying punishments into effect, the burglar and homicide are in no worse condition than the prisoner who has been guilty of the lightest crime. In fact, a sentence to transportation is here almost a mockery of justice.

The enormous cost of a penal settlement in the West Indies is understood to be the principal cause of that project having been abandoned; but I am of opinion that hulks might with advantage be fitted up in these seas for the reception of criminals under sentence of transportation, who might be profitably employed in assisting to repair the dilapidated defences of these colonies. Arrangements might with ease be made for the removal of the convicts to these places of imprisonment, the local legislatures furnishing the means of transport, and contributing, in due proportion, for the support of the establishment.

Should, however, the use of prison ships be deemed inadmissible, it might be worthy of the consideration of the local legislatures how far it may be practicable and feasible, at stated periods, to make arrangements for a mutual interchange of convicts; by which means they would undergo the term of their punishment beyond the reach of communion with their families and former associates, and render a sentence of transportation something more than a name.

Population.

By the last census, the population was 13,208; but within the last 12 months the House of Assembly passed certain resolutions for the encouragement of immigration, giving a bounty of 3*l.* 10*s.* sterling a-head for every immigrant entering into a contract of service for one year. Under these resolutions about 600 labourers, principally from Barbados, have been introduced into the colony at a cost of 2000*l.* sterling.

On the termination of the apprenticeship, upwards of one-third of the labouring population withdrew from field work, and became the occupiers of small freeholds. This gave a serious check to the cultivation of sugar for the moment; but much to the credit and foresight of the proprietary body, every facility was given the peasantry to settle in the country. The consequence is, that although within sight of Trinidad, where every inducement is held out to encourage emigration from the sister islands, not a negro has left Tobago to settle there.

Many thriving and populous free villages have sprung up, the residents of which not only supply the markets with the necessaries of life, but in crop time and on occasions of emergency, very readily offer their services to the neighbouring estates at the usual current rate of wages.

The condition of these people is highly satisfactory; their clothing is good, and their cottages, (which are constructed of wood and have glass windows,) together with the furniture in them, indicate a degree of prosperity and comfort that presents a singular and pleasing contrast to the wretched state of the Irish peasants, as described by the Commissioner of the "Times" newspaper.

Representations have, however, reached me respecting the insecurity of tenure by which many of these cottiers hold their lands; but neither the limits of this report, nor the imperfect information I am, as yet, in possession of, enable me to enter further on the matter until I can accurately ascertain the extent of the evil and the remedy which it may be necessary to apply.

Having been only four months in the administration of the government of this colony, my observations in so short a time do not justify me, with confidence, to speak of the future prospects of Tobago. As it, however, enjoys a fine climate, and possesses a rich and well watered soil, with a rapidly augmenting population, I see every reasonable ground to look forward to increasing prosperity, the great impediment to which is the very natural disinclination of the

capitalist to vest money on West Indian property, so long as the annual agitation of the sugar duties prevent his being able to make permanent improvements with any certainty of a profitable return.

L. GRÆME, Lieut.-Governor.

Government House, 12th February, 1846.

(No. 6.) No. 12. No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE to Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY.

SIR, Downing-street, April 24, 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, Tobago, No. 5, of the 7th March, with Lieutenant-Governor Græme's general report on the affairs of that island, (to accompany the "Blue Book" for 1845,) which I have read with interest.

With reference to your remarks on that part of it which relates to the militia, I beg to suggest, for your consideration, whether it might not be desirable to instruct the Lieutenant-Governor, in conformity with his own views, to employ any influence he may have with the Assembly in the matter of the new Militia Act, for the encouragement of the admission of negroes into the corps.

I would also suggest, with reference to the subject of immigration, that the Assembly should be induced, if possible, not to limit the bounty on immigrants to those who come under contracts for one year's service; but in granting the bounty, to keep in view the great advantages of a system of indefinite hiring over that of prolonged and specific terms, in making the labourers more willing, and obviating difficulties in the enforcement of labour.

I regret the unfavourable account which is given by Lieutenant-Governor Græme, of the state of the schools under the Church. I have taken some steps with a view to further inquiry on this subject, on which you will probably have thought it expedient to communicate with the Bishop of Barbados.

I have, &c.,

Governor Sir C. E. Grey, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 13.

(No. 7.) No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Government House, Barbados,

SIR, March 20th, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you a copy of a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of St. Vincent, and His Excellency's general report on the state of the island, and a plan of the Kingstown Goal, together with a Copy of a Despatch from myself to the Lieut.-Governor, comprising such remarks as a perusal of the Report, and an examination of the Blue Book for 1845, have suggested, and as my constant occupations have left me leisure to put together.

No. 500. Feb. 7, 1846.

General Report.

L. G. St. Vincent, No. 473. March 18, 1846.

I feel confident that I have not said more than will receive the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government in approbation of the pains and ability with which the Lieut.-Governor has compiled the Report within so short a time from his entering upon the duties of the government.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. &c., &c., &c. (Signed) C. E. GREY, Governor.

ST. VINCENT.

Encl. in No. 13.

Report and Plan of Gaol.

Enclosure in No. 13.

(No. 500.)

St. Vincent, Government House, 7th February, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE now the honour to transmit to your Excellency, my "Report on this Colony in all its Political and Social Relations." It appeared to me, that something of the nature of a statistical account would afford the greatest mass of information.

I have, therefore, drawn the Report in that form, and have endeavoured to embody in it, as much as my limited time has enabled me to make myself master of. There is, indeed, much difficulty in obtaining correct statistical facts and details, but I have taken considerable pains to arrive at the knowledge of them, and believe that what I have written is characterized, if not by fulness, at least by correctness.

The accompanying plan of the goal has lately been executed by my direction, and is quite correct. It is referred to in the Blue Book and also in the Report.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbados.

(Signed) J. CAMPBELL, Lieut.-Governor.

Report transmitted with the Blue Book of St. Vincent, 7th February, 1846.

I. POSITION AND EXTENT.

The island of St. Vincent, the subject of this Report, is situate in 13° 10′ 15″ N. lat., and 60° 37′ 57″ W. long., and nearly equidistant from Barbadoes and Grenada.

Kingstown, the capital and seat of government being 80 miles distant from Bridgetown, the capital of Barbadoes, (course west.) and 70 miles from St. George's, the capital of Grenada, (course S.S.W. ½ W.)

St. Lucia is more adjacent, the distance from Owia, the northernmost point of St. Vincent, being only 27 miles, (course W.N.W.) From the harbour of Kingstown to that of Bequia, the nearest of the dependencies, the distance is stated to be 13 miles. The extreme length of St. Vincent is estimated at 18½ miles, the breadth 11, containing 84,286 acres.

II. COAST.

The windward coast is picturesque in the extreme, bold and rocky, and presenting in many spots a wilder aspect than the eye expects to rest upon beneath the tropics. The bays are unsheltered, and from the high sea and heavy ground swell, that usually prevails, considerable expense and great risk is incurred by the estates in the shipment of their produce. The seaward coast offers an aspect the most opposite, imparting to the traveller the quiet and luxuriant beauty of these climes. Its shores are diversified with bays, which recede some distance into the land, and relieved by noble promontories which jut out, and rise to a considerable height. There is little or no beach, and the hills richly clad with trees start abruptly from the water's edge. Along the whole coast there is a verdancy in the scenery, and a spring and luxuriance of vegetable life, for which this island is justly remarkable.

The principal bays to windward are, first:—

Owia Bay.—The most northern in the island, in moderate weather small vessels can ride here in from 10 to 20 fathoms close to the shore. A strong current runs from east to west, and from west to east, changing with the moon; it was at this bay that the French landed their troops to assist the Charibs in the sanguinary struggle of 1795.

Stubb's Bay.—Under the same favourable circumstances there is good anchorage here in from 10 to 15 fathoms; at such seasons, the shipment of produce and landing of stores is effected without much risk. Current strong from north to south. Inland of this bay there is a remarkable headland known as the King's Hill; on the east side there is a dangerous bluff, where a battery existed during the war, between this bay and Calliaqua there is a small quay, where many of the island craft have been lost at various times, it is called Milligans, and cannot be mistaken by mariners, as there is no other on the windward coast.

Calliaqua, or Tyrell's Bay.—In this bay the best anchorage that the coast affords is to be found, and it is considered the most secure roadstead during the hurricane months; there is no current in the bay, depth of water from 10 to 15 fathoms. The entrance is bounded on either side by coral reefs; on the west side is Young's Island, and a singularly insulated rock 260 feet above the level of the sea. On its summit Fort Duvernette is constructed, the ascent is made by steps cut out of solid stone. Between Young's Island and the shore there is anchorage in from 10 to 15 fathoms. Access gained by passing close to the westward of the island and Fort Duvernette; running down from the eastward, you round Aker's Point, with 10 fathoms close to the land, and enter

Kingstown Bay,—the harbour of the capital. This bay to the eastward, is fortified and commanded by Fort Charlotte; at its base is Old Woman's Point. The best anchorage is about the centre of the harbour, in 15 fathoms water. Off the bay, the current runs from north to south, and from south to north, at two to four miles an hour.

The principal bays to leeward are, *first,*—

Buccament Bay.—The church, situate within half a mile of the sea, is generally taken as a mark on entering; opposite to it there being anchorage in from 10 to 15 fathoms. On the heights, which protect the east side, a battery formerly stood.

Layou Bay.—Safe anchorage off the westernmost point; here also are the remains of a battery.

Barrouallie Bay.—Opposite to the church: there is a deeper anchorage than in any bay along the coast; depth of water from 20 to 30 fathoms. To the north are two remarkable rocks, called the Bottle and Glass.

Chateaubellaire Bay.—On the north side is a small island called Chateaubellaire island, on rounding which from the south a clear bay is opened. Vessels generally proceed into 15 fathoms water, where there is the most safe anchorage. From Chateaubellaire Bay there is no regular anchorage ground for six or seven miles; but by running in close to the shore, anchorage and a safe landing can be effected. The current off the bays along the coast runs from north-west to south-east, according to the time of the moon, at from two to four miles an hour.

III. Surface.

The appearance of the surface of the island, most strongly supports the opinion entertained from geological research, that it is of volcanic origin. There is the lofty mountain and the fertile plain; but in every direction are interspersed wooded knots and conical mounts of varied and striking form, upheaved, as it were, by some convulsion of nature. A chain of mountains, with every feature of magnificent mountain range, stretch from north to south of the island, covered with immense trees. On the leeward side, the mountains are intersected by deep ravines, which, as they approach the sea, gradually widen into valleys, which form the sugar plantations. On the windward side, the hills recede further from the sea; the country, therefore, is more open, and a wider extent of cultivation exhibited. The tract known as the Charib country, containing some of the finest estates in the island, is in comparison level, and presents an agreeable change, in passing from the adjoining districts. The mountains are sharp and abrupt in their terminations, separated by deep romantic glens, and completely clad with trees whose dark foliage appear in beauteous contrast with the brighter green of the cane fields that stretch away to the margin of the sea. In the leeward country, irregular hills break out in all directions from the chain of mountains, and diverging towards the sea, divide the valleys, which generally are different estates. Many of the valleys, embracing thus every variety of landscape, are of surpassing beauty. The valley of Buccament, five miles long and one wide, entirely open to the sea, with lofty hills at the upper part and sides, and a clear and rapid stream running through its vale, is justly celebrated. The extensive valley of Marriaqua is also worthy of comment. It lies to the eastward, and has only one singular cleft, with perpendicular sides, through which the river Yambou flows to the sea. It has been conjectured that the valley is an exhausted crater, which has been drained of its water; the position, however, is too low to maintain this hypothesis, as the volcanic craters in all the islands are situated on the most lofty mountains. The Souffriere volcanic mountain is situate at the northern extremity of the island, and is the last of a chain which was called Morne à Geru by the natives: it is about 3000 feet above the level of the sea. The island contains 84,286 acres, of which between 34,000 and 35,000 appear, by the produce returns lodged with the Treasurer, to be employed in the cultivation of the staple commodity. That there is much additional land, cultivated in provisions, there can be no doubt; but there is no statistical authority, to which reference can be made.

IV. Rivers.

The rivers of this island derive their source, about 2000 feet above the level of the sea amid the Crown lands, on the summit of the chain of hills described as extending from north to south, and, at distances of from 12 to 13 miles, are discharged into the sea. Those most worthy of note in the different parishes are as follows:—

Charlotte Parish.—The Rabacca, or Dry River.—This appellation is peculiarly applicable; for, though it presents the bed of a large river, no water flows along its course. It was by this channel that the lava emitted by the eruption of the Souffriere in 1812 escaped to the sea, and its destructive and desolating influence seems to be indelibly imprinted: it wears a wild and barren aspect, and the vegetation on its banks is scarce and stunted. After very heavy rains, a torrent of water is ejected from the mountains; but in general, the stream, which marks its origin, after flowing some short length, wells through its calcined bed, and, no doubt attracted by the ocean, pursues its course through subterraneous passages, till mingled with its depths.

Grand Sable North River, Grand Sable South River, the Massaricaw, Camacaribou, Yarabuqua, Colonarie, and Byera.

Saint George's Parish.—The Yambou and Warrawarrou.

Saint Andrew's Parish.—The Buccament and York or Rothia.

Saint Patrick's Parish.—The Layou, Walillabo, Staffy's, Cumberland, Washilaboo, and Troumaca.

Saint David's Parish.—The Chateaubellaire, Morne à Geru, and Wallibou.

In many districts, the water-power afforded by these rivers and their tributary streams, has been made available by the possessors of estates; and the water-mill supplies the place of the cattle-mill and steam-engine. Even in the dry seasons, running streams are to be found in the rivers enumerated; but in the rainy months they frequently become impassable; the water flooding from the mountains in torrents of irresistible force and rapidity. As a means of transport they are, consequently, unavailable.

ST. VINCENT.

V. Islands.

The names of the dependencies of this island, with their distances and bearings from Kingstown Harbour, are as follows:—

Names.	Distances.	Bearings.
Bequia	9 Miles	S. ¼ E.
Union	13 ,,	S.S.W.
Mustique	22 ,,	S.S.E.
Canouan	28 ,,	S. by W. ½ W.
Balliceaux	20 ,,	S.E.
Battawia	20 ,,	S.E.
Myera	32 ,,	S. by W. ½ W.
Petit Saint Vincent	20 ,,	S.
Isle à Quatre	20 ,,	S. by E.
Isle of Wash.		
Church Island	Small islands and rocks, lying to the south of Bequia.	
Petit Nevis		
Three Ramiers		
Pillories, Savan		
Petit Bermuda		
Canouan		
Barbaroux Isle		
Petit Curaçoa		
Two Taffia Quays		
Two Balleines		
Two Catholics		
Prume Island		
Four Tobago Quays		
Umbrella Island		
Petit Martinique		

Bequia contains 3700 acres: it has a church and resident rector. There are several productive sugar estates, and it possesses a fine harbour, called Admiralty Bay. The Union contains 2150 acres; it exports about 23 bales, or 6628 lbs. of cotton annually. Mustique contains 2103 acres; it formerly had two sugar estates: one is still cultivated, the other, from the reduced finances of the proprietor, has been converted into a stock farm. Canouan contains 1777 acres. Balliceaux and Battawia are only used for feeding stock.

VI. Woods, Fruits, Esculents.

The woods of this island abound with timber, which, could it be more easily obtained, would be employed by the upholsterer, the house-builder, the ship and millwright, for every useful and ornamental purpose; but the difficulty of access, and the vast expense, from the character of the country, that would attend its transport, are insurmountable impediments. The white, yellow, spruce, and pitch pines, imported from British America and the States, are to be purchased here at reasonable rates, and supersede, consequently, the use of native wood. Again, the largest tracks of forest are on the Crown land; and, though the value of the latter may not be enhanced by the trees they bear, the local authorities are bound to prevent their being cut down. The trees the most prized, and their uses and value, may be stated as follows: viz.—

Names.	Uses.	Value.
Locust	Furniture, house, and ship building.	8*d.* sterling per foot.
Mahogany	,, ,,	,, ,,
Bullet Wood	Mill-work.	
Red Cedar	Furniture and building.	4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per post.
White Cedar	Ship and boat-building.	1*s.* to 20*s.* per timber.
Gutic Wood	Furniture and building.	5*d.* sterling per foot.
Georia	,, ,,	,, ,,
Cashew	,, ,,	,, ,,
Galba	,, ,,	,, ,,
Wild Coco	,, ,,	,, ,,
Shoemakers Bark	. . . .	,, ,,
Gunnen Wood	Spars. Canoes are cut out of the stem.	,, ,,
Almond	Furniture and building.	,, ,,
Manchineal	House and ship-building.	,, ,,
Auchineal.	. . . .	,, ,,
Dog Wood	. . . .	,, ,,
Grape.	Ship and boat-building.	,, ,,

The locust and bullet are hard woods, and difficult to work up. The locust is capable of receiving a higher degree of polish than any wood known to the cabinet-maker. The white

cedar, for boat-building, is of all, perhaps, the most generally used; it is brought chiefly from the dependencies. The hurricane of 1831 destroyed a large proportion of the fruit trees: the orange and shaddock, formerly to be had in abundance, are now rare.

The bread fruit-tree, introduced by Captain Bligh in 1793, from Otaheite, is much valued by the population. The fruit is of a round shape, and varies in size and weight, from 4 to 10 pounds. It is used before becoming ripe, and, being then of a dry fibrous character, it is eaten baked or boiled. The fruit comes out in succession the greater part of the year, and becomes with the Negro an article of daily consumption: indeed, the localities of their small houses may be discovered by the presence of their favourite tree. Dogs and poultry are fond of it; but the hog, which is an appendage to every Negro's stock-yard, is reared upon little other food.

Independent of its utility, the tree is one of the handsomest in the island: it grows to about 60 feet high, and has a large broad divided leaf, appearing only at the extremity of the branches, from which the fruit depends in clusters of from from five to six. Having no formation of seeds, the tree produces its progeny by suckers from its roots. It is very hardy, and resists the severest gusts of wind. The cocoa nut, pomegranate, sappadillo, mango, mumme sappota, plantain, papaw, soursop, custard apple, java plum, avocada pear, guava, grenadilla, water lemon, clove, nutmeg, cinnamon, Jamaica plum, sugar apple, Otaheite gooseberry, lime, cerasco trees yield at different seasons. The pine-apple is abundant, but uncultivated. The coffee-tree thrives, but is not cultivated to any extent. Vegetable productions are the yam, sweet potato, okio, tania, and pigeon pea, &c. Many English vegetables are grown: peas, cabbage, turnips, and carrots thrive well.

Though, perhaps, the expenditure of the public revenue should be limited and reserved to the most urgent purposes, it is to be regretted that the botanic garden, the celebrity of which was at one time widely disseminated, has been permitted, from the withdrawal of all pecuniary aid, to fall into neglect—more especially, after the care and trouble incurred, and the amount expended in its formation. The garden was commenced by General Melville, governor of the ceded islands, in 1765, taken under the protection of Government in 1785, and presented to the Colony in 1822. Great pains were bestowed in collecting the most remarkable of the native plants, and excursions made to the other islands, for the addition of every curious species. In 1787, the clove and the cinnamon were introduced from the French islands, others were brought from North America, and Guiana yielded her contributions. 530 plants of the bread fruit were landed by Captain Bligh in 1793. The nutmeg was introduced from Cayenne in 1809. A catalogue of plants, prepared in 1806, shows that the garden contained at that period an immense variety of plants. Their numbers will prove the exertions that must have been made to collect so infinite a variety.

Commercial and medicinal	68
Esculents	52
Medicinals	102
In Economy	66
Valuable woods	75
Fruits	90
Exotics, curious and ornamental	930

The land forming the site of the garden, is the property of the Crown, and contains 39½ acres. Within it stands the residence appropriated to the Officer administering the Government. The situation has many charms, but all traces of its cultivation have departed. The last superintendent still dwells within its precincts, and exists upon a trifling annuity allowed him by the Colony. The nutmeg, clove, cinnamon, mahogany, cork, shaddock, orange, locust, laurel, teak, ebony, bay, and balsam capivi trees, still flourish in the garden. The variety of the palm and the mimosa are also to be found.

VII. Geology and Mineral Productions.

The character of the island is volcanic: traces of strata, that have undergone the action of fire, are visible to all who may give the subject their attention. The irregular appearance of the surface, and the masses of rock to be found in unexpected situations, indicate the powerful agency that in ages past must have been in action. It is said, that a primitive rock is not to be found in the island; and the assertion is supported by branches of trees, and other substances, being frequently discovered in large masses of rock at considerable depths, which must at one time have been in a state of fusion. After much inquiry, I cannot learn of any valuable mineral productions; but, as many mineral spas exist, it is to be supposed, that investigation would have thrown light upon a subject which is generally regarded with intense interest. Even during my brief residence in this island, the knowledge has been forced upon me, that little heed is paid to these matters, and that many of its resources remain undeveloped—for this, various reasons are to be adduced. The want of capital, perhaps, is the most powerful; and here, agriculturists and planters are almost all, in a measure, dependent upon the capitalists of the mother country. Again, an opinion exists, that nothing can be introduced to realize a better return than that derived from the long-standing cultivation of the sugar-cane; and, though, perhaps, the surmise may be well-founded—as it is promulgated by men of experience and talent—it may be offered as another reason for the opinion I entertain. Where the force of education has not been known, it has produced an evil tendency. In such instances, it has been the means of retarding, and keeping in the background, many other

valuable considerations. Every idea has been concentrated in this one great measure, no other resource has been thought of; and thus, though unpremeditated, an amount of injury was inflicted, and an apathy excited, that time, judicious management, the aids of science, and the blessings of education, can alone remove. On the 27th April, 1812, the Colony suffered from a dreadful eruption of the Souffrière volcanic mountain, marked by very disastrous results. Vegetation was generally destroyed: one estate near the mountain completely covered by sand and ashes; many persons injured, and some killed. Upon an investigation of the losses sustained, a petition was presented to Parliament, and the sum of 25,000*l.* voted for the sufferers.

The tourist who visits the mountain will be amply repaid for his toil and trouble; much of its celebrated beauty was destroyed by the eruption, but there is now a grandeur and magnificence in its wild and solemn majesty, that is said greatly to exceed Mount Etna. There are two craters; the new crater was formed by the convulsion of 1812, on the north-east side of the original one; the latter has been found to contain from 60 to 85 fathoms water. It is stated that the mountain threw out flames in 1787, and the different strata of which it is composed, indicates that if this event is incorrectly narrated, there have been eruptions at other periods.

Earthquakes may be said to be of yearly occurrence; they are remarked to take place in the months of October, November, and January. Severe shocks have been felt in this island, but unattended by any evil results.

VIII. Climate.

The following meteorological table, shewing the mean of the thermometer, its highest and lowest range, and also the quantity of rain in inches, during seven years, though taken in Kingstown, will afford a very just idea of the climate of this island.

	Thermometer.			Pluviameter.
	Lowest.	Highest.	Mean.	Number of Inches.
1838	73	89½	80·88	83·25
1839	72	90	81·03	57·19
1840	72	88	81·11	74·17
1841	70	88½	81·15	63·42
1842	72	89	80·75	63·35
1843	70	89	81·28	68·69
1844	73	90½	81·53	81·88

The prevailing wind is from the north east, but during the hurricane months, viz., April, September, and October, the winds set more from the southward and westward, and is light and variable, with occasionally strong breezes. Hurricanes blow from this direction. On the 11th August, 1831, the island was visited by one of a severe nature. It committed vast damage; 19 vessels were driven ashore in Kingstown Bay, the plantations were much injured, and many of the sugar works and houses levelled to the ground. The estimate of the losses amounted to 163,420*l.* Since that period, the island has escaped a similar infliction. St. Vincent enjoys the reputation of being healthy, and on the heights the air is cool and elastic. The abundance of water contributes much to its salubrity, and from its irregular formation, elevated mountains, and gravelly subsoil, rain does not lodge upon its surface, and there are few uncultivated plains to harbour miasm. The seasons are, in common with all tropical situations, divided into wet and dry; the former is expected to commence with the full moon in May, the latter in November.

IX. Soil.

The soil in the valleys is a rich tenacious loam, and occasionally a rich black mould; on the ascents it assumes a more sandy character, and is less fertile. The lands at the base of the Souffriere are the most prolific in the Colony; the soil is clay at the bottom, but the surface is composed of the sand ejected by the eruption of 1812. The poorer land upon the hill sides is the best for the cultivation of arrow root, and much of it is planted out by the Negroes as provision grounds, a perquisite granted to them from the estate to which the land belongs, and on which they are engaged as labourers; the best soil is adapted to the cane. I cannot report that any experiments have been made with regard to the different descriptions of soil.

X. Towns and Villages.

The towns of the island are Kingstown, Calliaqua, George Town, Barrouallie, Layou, and Chateaubellaire. Kingstown, the capital, is situate in 13° 8′ N. Lat., and 61° 17′ W. Long., near the south-west extremity of the island, is erected along the shore of a beautiful bay, fortified on the north-west by Fort Charlotte, the military station of the island, and on the south by a battery on Cane-Garden Point. The view of Kingstown and the surrounding country is by many considered to exceed in beauty that of any other of the Caribee islands; it is indeed a delightful prospect, and perhaps no site more pleasing, or better adapted for the capital, could have been selected throughout the Colony. An amphitheatre of high and undulating mountains, seems to embrace it for its protection, a picture heightened by the commanding position. It is also central, and well supplied with water. The town consists of three streets about a mile long, intersected by six others; at some distance it has a picturesque appearance, but this is much impaired by a nearer inspection. The houses, though some have been constructed at considerable expense, are deficient in architectural grace, and even as they

are, there is a want of uniformity in style and proportion, which increases the ill effect. Some of the public edifices are, however, very creditable, substantial if not elegant. The church is a heavy brick building, capable of containing 2,000 persons; it has an excellent toned organ, a splendid chandelier, and very handsome pulpit and bishop's throne. The Court House is a capacious and somewhat handsome stone edifice. The architecture is plain, massive, and in good keeping; it has two large apartments above appropriated to the Legislature. Beneath is the Court of Justice, and offices for the Provost Marshal and Colonial Secretary. Adjoining to the church the Wesleyans have erected a large chapel, capable of containing 2,000 persons. There is also a Presbyterian church and Catholic chapel. In the centre of the town is a considerable brick building, formerly the Government House. Upon the erection of a residence in the Botanic Garden for the Officer administering the Government, it was allowed to fall out of repair. The Legislature have, however, lately granted money for its restoration, and the work is proceeding. The police magistrate for the district sits every day (except Sundays) at the Court House, the stipendiary justice sits three days in the week. The town-wardens for Kingstown are appointed annually by the votes of the freeholders, who have the power of nominating a town-clerk and overseer, the former receives 50*l.* per annum, the latter 100*l.* These accounts are paid from the funds of the town. The town is capable of great improvement, but the wardens are restricted from carrying out their arrangements for the public good, by the very limited amount of funds at their disposal. It is with difficulty that they can, without incurring responsibility, keep the streets clean, and effect the trifling detail of duty that becomes a part of their daily duty. They are debarred the power of attempting any thing like extensive benefit, and they represent that it would be unwise, unjust, and impolitic, to increase the town rates. A properly constituted corporation appears to present the most salutary mode of remedying these defects. An immediate proposal to organize such a body would, I conceive, be received with astonishment, as sudden transitions generally are, and most probably be rejected; but under the impression that the evil will, ere long, of necessity effect its own cure, I delay interference. In small societies, more caution and conciliation is required than in large communities; and it will, perhaps, secure more unanimity among the freeholders if they are allowed to enjoy the credit of substituting a beneficial change, than if its adoption were forced upon them. A wharf is much required, for, owing to the heavy surf that prevails frequently in the harbour, goods are much damaged in landing, and passengers exposed to inconvenience. With the trade that exists, a wharf would, in a short period, repay the cost of erection, and if established on behalf of the town, yield a revenue that would enable those interested in its direction to effect the necessary improvements.

Population of Kingstown, 4,769.

Calliaqua is situate in the parish of St. George's, about three miles from Kingstown. Population by census 1844, 586. About eight English merchant vessels are laden here annually, and this gives the town an importance which it would not otherwise possess; the bay is protected and commodious, and the beach convenient for shipping produce. The town contains about 70 houses, and is considered unhealthy. It is built on low, marshy land, the exhalations from which produce a low, typhoid fever. Drainage would be the only remedy. The Legislature have lately passed a Bill appropriating a sum for this purpose, and though inadequate to the drainage of the whole town, it will contribute partial good.

George Town is 22 miles from Kingstown, and numbers about 187 souls.

The above two towns are to windward, and the following are the leeward towns.

Layou, 17½ miles from Kingstown. Population 173.

Barouallie, 12 miles from Kingstown. Population 650.

Chateaubellaire, 27½ miles from Kingstown. Population 295.

It is not in my power to furnish a statistical return of the trades and handicrafts pursued by the inhabitants of these towns; the aggregate number thus employed in the whole island appeared, by the census of 1844, to be 1516.

In the leeward towns, a considerable number of the inhabitants support themselves by fishing, and many by cultivating small portions of land in the vicinity. With the exception of in the capital, the town-wardens are appointed by the justices of the Court of Grand Session, at the first court in the year. The parties appointed are usually recommended by the district magistrates; this secures persons of respectability. Still the freeholders deem it an invasion of their privileges, and would prefer the power of election being vested with them.

The predominant feeling evinced by the rural population is, a desire of possessing a house and a patch of land; the result is, that small villages and hamlets have sprung up in various quarters of the island. From information I have collected, I should say that there is every prospect of their number being considerably extended. Upon the first establishment of villages, alarm was excited among the agricultural body. It was feared that the system, by encouraging other pursuits, would tend to an abstraction of field labour; but experience proves the supposition to have been groundless. I consider that it should be fostered and encouraged, as one that must be productive of great general advantage; the certain benefit to the estates to which villages are adjoined is obvious; considerable prices are realized for land unfit for the cultivation of sugar, and a peasantry capable of carrying on their cultivation, located at convenient distance. There are police magistrates attached to each district, and the rights and privileges of the people are specially protected by the stipendiary justices. By the census of 1844, the number of villages and small hamlets, consisting of three or four houses, returned, was 44.

The following is an enumeration of the most thriving in the different parishes, with their population, at that period.

VILLAGES.

Parishes.	Names.	Population.
St. George's	Grove Village	60
	Vigio District	125
	Warrawarrow	40
	Landers	99
	Gourien, Upper and Lower	149
	Ashburton	77
	Victoria Village	315
	Evesham Village	96
St. David's	Morne Ronde	84
	Cape Rolle	39
St. Patrick's	Cowdrey Town	143
Charlotte	Richland Park	160
	Greggs	54
	Sandy Bay (Caribs)	106
	Owia	81
	Cliff Cottage	157
	Hyndford	162
	Mesopotamia	319

XI. AGRICULTURE and MANUFACTURES.

The cultivation of the sugar-cane in this island is confined to a belt of land, extending round three-fourths of the island, and on an average about one mile and a half in breadth. This belt of land is generally very hilly, and composed of numerous valleys, contiguous to each other, these, as explained in treating of the surface, widen very much, as they approach the sea, and frequently terminate in a piece of flat land. In 1828, when the affairs of the Colony were considered in a prosperous state, the quantity of sugar manufactured had increased to about 19,000 hogsheads. The first crop, planted after final emancipation, and made in 1840, fell as low as 6,000 hogsheads; but since that period, the crop has gradually increased up to 9,000 hogsheads. The number of labourers engaged as slaves, in the cultivation of the sugar-cane in 1828, may be estimated at 11,000.

In 1840, as free people, at . 6,000.
In 1845, the number did not exceed . . . . 4,500.

The crop manufactured in 1828 was at the rate of $1\frac{3}{4}$ hogsheads to each labourer; in 1840, 1 hogshead; and in 1845, 2 hogsheads, showing thus a greater return from free-labour now than from slave-labour formerly, for each individual.

This increase, in proportion to the labour employed, is owing principally to three causes, first, the improved system of cultivation; reducing the quantity of land cultivated, and taking better care of it. Second, the introduction and general use of artificial manures, whereby the quantity of land cultivated by each individul is made to yield a large return; and thirdly, the confinement of the cultivation to the most productive land. Unfortunately, however, the profit arising from such increased production of labour is more than counterbalanced at present by the amount of wages paid, and the outlay in the purchase of manures: also, by the small quantity of sugar manufactured on each estate, owing to the scarcity of labour, and by the irregularity and uncertainty with which the cultivation is carried on. The greater part of the interior of the island is in an uncultivated state; but many of the valleys scattered throughout it were formerly appropriated as grounds for the cultivation of provisions by the labourers during their spare hours. These grounds have been much neglected since the emancipation, though the land is very fertile, and amply repays the labour of cultivating. They are generally situated at some distances from estates, which may be the chief cause of the irregularity in working them, though another leading cause may be traced to the restless spirit of change still existing, which prevents the labourer from cultivating to any extent that which he may be inclined to forsake for some caprice, or at the dictate of some fancied advantage.

A portion of these neglected lands have been converted into arrow-root estates, and the quantity produced of that article is fully trebled in the last few years. It is a lighter description of cultivation than the sugar-cane, and therefore generally preferred by the labourer. Very little coffee is raised, except for private consumption; and the production of cocoa, which was never very great, is much reduced.

The general steepness of the land is very much against the general application of agricultural instruments, for facilitating labour; and where they have been employed, the work from this cause has been so imperfectly performed that the return obtained has not been commensurate with the expense incurred. Wherever manual labour can be obtained, at a fair rate of wages, for the cultivation of the cane, its use will never be superseded in this island by ploughs, weeding harrows, or any such implements. The liberal application of artificial manures, such as guano, bone-dust, rape-seed, &c., is the principal improvement hitherto adopted in agriculture; but great want of judgment is shown in the mode of their application to the cane; they are adminstered in one strong dose, instead of being judiciously applied, at several intervals of growth. Drainage is little attended to, except on some few estates where open drains are made. This is the more unfortunate, as, without doubt, great

benefit would be derived from it on many plantations, especially in the stiff clay soils, of which the bottom of the valleys are often composed. The process of sugar manufacture is very imperfect, and, strange to say, in the state of the apparatus, little change has taken place during the last 50 years.

Improvements to save manual labour have been generally adopted, such as cane-carriers, to elevate the canes, to the mill; megass railways, to facilitate the removal of the wet megass, by transporting it in waggons to the fuel-house, and, in some instances, tramroads, to carry the dry fuel to the copper-hole, as well as additional tramroads, to convey the sugar to the shipping place. Boiling by steam and vacuum pans has also been tried with success, and an apparatus for that purpose is now about to be erected on two estates. The manufactures by steam is now brought to such perfection that nothing but the immense expense of machinery deters its universal adoption. The expediency of manufactories on a large scale, to embrace the produce of several estates, has been a subject of much consideration. The estates in this island are however so situated, that few localities could be selected for the adaptation of a central set of works; there are, perhaps, a few situations where such an arrangement might be favourably attempted with the assistance of tramroads laid down through the neighbouring estates; and where the hilly nature of the country is opposed to such a plan, the canes might be ground at the present mills, the juice converted into syrup, and then conveyed to the central manufactory. Public attention has also lately been invited to the establishment of sugar refineries; but if proper machinery was erected at large manufactories, centrally situated, a sugar refinery would be of little use, as the syrup and cane-juice might be converted into sugar of excellent quality by use of charcoal, and by boiling with steam; but if such manufactories are not constructed, no doubt a refinery for coarse sugar and molasses would answer well, as the expense of carriage to England is the same, whatever the quality of the article may be; and, therefore, the finer the sugar, the less proportion the expense of carriage bears to price. The facilities for forming a refinery are great, both with respect to a favourable selection for receiving the produce to be refined, and for its reshipment after the process.

XII. Estates.

There are 100 sugar-estates in the island, averaging from 400 to 500 acres. On the estates there is a manager, and one or more overseers, in accordance with the extent. In the absence of the proprietor, he is represented by his attorney, to whom the manager looks for direction and support. The remuneration to attorneys varies from 50*l.* to 100*l.* sterling per annum, according to the extent of the estate.

The salaries of the managers average from 100*l.* to 160*l.* per annum, with house, provision-grounds, domestics, the use of horses, and, in some cases, additional perquisites are enjoyed.

The salaries of the overseers average from 70*l.* to 80*l.* per annum. They have similar allowances, only on more limited scales.

Number of resident proprietors . .	22
„ non-resident proprietors .	68
„ attorneys	20
„ managers	78
„ overseers	160
„ labourers	10,842

Of the latter, however, it must be remarked, that only 4,500 are actually engaged in cultivating estates.

Few advances have been made by English merchants on properties in this country, since the emancipation; and those have been on so limited an extent, in proportion to the value of the estates, that little or no risk has been incurred. This implied want of confidence has greatly depreciated West Indian property in the home market, and had such corresponding effect here that great difference of opinion exists as to the value of estates. I am unable, therefore, to offer such information on this interesting topic as I would wish; but I fear that until immigration is extended, though occasionally a favourable transfer of property may occur, the want of credit, uncertainty of duties, and large absorption of profits, from the high rate of wages, incident upon the scarcity of labour, must render West Indian property a precarious investment. The general condition of the Negro embraces an amount of comfort little imagined in the mother country. Their expenses are so trifling, and their wants, from the nature of the country, so few, that they are enabled rapidly to accumulate money.

The wages for field-labourers are:—

1st class, 8*d.* to 1*s.* sterling.
2nd class, 5*d.* to 8*d.* sterling.

The hours of work, nominally speaking, are nine, but they rarely exceed from six to seven, unless when the labourers are employed in the manufacture of sugar, and then they are paid for their additional labour at double the rate of their customary wages. Those labourers who reside on estates have the gratuitous use of a cottage and provision-grounds, and, in many cases, medical attendance. The system of engaging the labourers to perform a definite quantum of labour, on some estates, is preferred. It is styled "task work." 8*d.* to 1*s.* sterling is paid for a "task," which can be faithfully and efficiently performed by an able labourer in five hours. The "task," however, rarely engages him more than four hours, and though seldom well executed, his wages are regularly paid to him. The females work well, and the number of children engaged in agriculture are progressively increasing. This

ST. VINCENT.

circumstance is viewed with much satisfaction, especially by all persons permanently interested. Where tenancy exists upon estates, the tenancy is conditionally held as part of wages, and is terminable at the expiration of the hiring, which is by the month. Drunkenness is said by the stipendiary justices to be on the decrease; but the Negro is addicted to ardent spirits: the custom of giving "allowances" prevails on, I believe, every sugar estate. An able labourer, when at work during crop, or performing heavy labour, such as cane-holeing, gets two gills of rum daily; when at light work, one gill. Second-class labourers get one gill occasionally, or in wet weather. The labourers all rear stock—sheep, poultry, and pigs, &c.—the sale of which enables them to gratify their strong passion for hoarding money. In many of their houses considerable neatness is observed, and they are proud of exhibiting a few articles of furniture. Their chief food is pork, salted and fresh fish, bread-fruit, farini, cassada, yams, taniers, and sweet potatoes. I have made inquiries as to the policy of paying the labourers by a proportion of the produce; but the most intelligent and experienced planters consider that there are weighty objections. In the first place, the people are too independent, and so jealous and suspicious, when their money is not paid monthly, that it would be impossible to engage them in a protracted scheme such as this. Again, from the complicated nature of the cultivation and manufacture, it is argued that the necessary unanimity could not be secured among a sufficient number of labourers on any one estate. With regard to leasing estates to the more intelligent and wealthy of the Negroes, there are also obstacles—the difficulty of finding security, and their want of confidence. The Negro will always prefer to labour upon the estates, or to purchase land, than to take a lease which would arouse his suspicion from entailing the necessity of a written agreement.

AMOUNT of PRODUCE exported from St. Vincent during the last Three Years to the different ports of Great Britain.

	Sugar.			Rum.			Molasses.			Cotton.
	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Puns.	Hhds.	Barrels.	Puns.	Hhds.	Barrels.	Bales.
1843	8,663	286	195	515	5	—	3,948	132	..	106
1844	9,388	146	174	486	22	1	4,138	136	29	141
1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Arrow Root.	Cotton.	Cocoa.	Coffee.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1843	147,281	21,441	4,695	39
1844	285,434	23,267	4,339	..
1845	..	..	..	..

The above return does not include some small exportations that are annually made to the United States and the foreign West Indies.

XIII. CROWN LANDS.

It is, perhaps, not generally known that the British Crown acquired in 1786 a right to these lands, by the payment of 6000*l.* to Mrs. Martha Swinburne, in accordance with the vote of Parliament. In 1780, during the administration of General Freydeau, the island being then the property of the French, by a Royal Ordnance, "*les terres incultes, vagues et non concedés*" was directed to be granted to this lady. On the restoration of the island, the British Government considered these acquired rights as too great an encroachment on the prerogative of the Crown, but with characteristic justice, the sum mentioned was paid to their possessor, and the lands reconveyed to His Majesty. This extraordinary grant is dated 9th November, 1782, and recorded in the Secretary's Office. The release is also on record, it is dated the 18th of August, 1786.

No survey having been made of these lands; it is not possible with correctness to state the number of acres they contain, but their extent is great. It is equally impossible to arrive at their value; though, I believe, that were instructions given for their public sale, the proceeds which might with vast advantage be made available to the necessities of the colony, would be very considerable.

Should Her Majesty's Government, in compliance with the frequent appeals which I find have been made, issue this order, the minimum quantity must be reduced from 40 acres; such allotments might be made with facility in large countries such as Canada, but in an island so small as this, it would be a certain prohibition. A great portion of the Crown lands capable of cultivation in this colony lie in patches of from five to six acres. Larger tracts only exist amid the almost inaccessible summits of the mountains. The delay of Government in bringing the Crown lands to sale has had a baneful influence; large numbers of able labourers have located themselves thereon as squatters, deriving support from cutting down timber and burning charcoal; and the yearly encroachments that are made by the estates which they adjoin will increase the difficulties that must attend their disposal. The Negroes evince their great desire to purchase portions of these lands by the frequency of their petitions to the executive; and though it may be said that the gratification of their wishes would tend to a greater abstraction of labour than now prevails, from their illegal occupation by squatters, there would be less uncertainty and irregularity in the system of labour and if the purchase money were appropriated to the introduction of emigrants, the whole population would be placed upon a

footing more conducive to the general benefit. 150 acres were laid out in the settlement of the island for towns, with regard to which, no steps have been taken. If these townships were brought to sale in small lots, they would be bought up with avidity. Other land is apportioned for churches, &c. &c.; the land reserved at Biabou for both these purposes where a church is particularly required, is supposed would realise 1200*l*.

XIV. Small Freeholds.

Prior to the year 1840, there were but few small freeholders in this island, and these were principally of the more respectable classes. The total number from January, 1826, to December, 1840, were only 17; from that date to the present period, there have been 158 small holdings recorded.

11	exceeding	10	acres.	
1	above	5	„	and less than 10 acres.
7	„	1	„	„ „ 5 „
139	less	than 1	„	

Some of these are only 72 feet square, and some only 60; in addition to these, there are 36 lodged in the Registrar's Office, but not yet perfected, being unacknowledged; these are all 72 feet square; in the above, the owners of lots in towns are not included. During their spare hours, these small freeholders cultivate their land in provisions.

The hoe is the implement universally used; they are generally employed on the adjacent estates, and are considered among the best labourers.

XV. Animals.

The island is free from poisonous snakes, a fact, perhaps, extraordinary. St. Lucia, which is only 27 miles distant, is overrun with them.

The centipede and scorpion are plentiful enough, but their sting, though painful, and often accompanied by severe inflammation, is not fatal. There are no wild animals indigenous to the island; in the mountain forests the wild hog, said to have been introduced by the Spaniards, is to be met with; when attacked, they are fierce and powerful. The Negroes hunt them with dogs and spears. The domestic animals are European; there is no means of arriving at their number. The island, though so well covered, has no game. The plover and runner abound at particular seasons. Horses and mules are imported from America; cattle from the Spanish Main.

The average yearly importation is

Horses.	Mules.	Cattle.
117	273	192

Oxen are employed on the estates in drawing carts. As soon as the labourer has purchased a piece of land and erected a house, his next desire is to own a horse, so that the better classes, on their holidays and Sundays, are always to be seen mounted. The planters are loud in their complaints, for these horses are very frequently turned into the young cane-fields at night, and where this is prevented, the grass intended for the estates' stock is made subservient to their purpose. The Negro shows some attention to his own horse or mule, but as a body, they are proverbially cruel to animals, not, perhaps, from any decided inhumanity of disposition so much as from inability to restrain their passions. The rat is very destructive to the cane, and numbers of dogs are kept on the estates for the purpose of killing them: on large properties, from 3000 to 4000 are annually destroyed.

XVI. Commerce.

The trade of the colony is chiefly confined to the importation of supplies from Great Britain, the British provinces in America, the United States, Barbados, and adjacent colonies. The exports are principally the staple products, sugar, rum, molasses, and arrow-root. But occasionally when scarcity prevails in a neighbouring island, of any commodity, as flour, cod-fish, pork, &c., shipments in small quantities are made to such places in small vessels. The duties paid on the importation of such goods are remitted as drawback upon exportation. The estates in this colony, being for the most part owned by parties resident in Great Britain, or under mortgage to merchants there, almost the entire of the sugar crop, and the greater part of the rum and molasses, is shipped in vessels to Great Britain, and does not pass through the hands of the colonial resident merchant.

A small part of the rum and molasses crop is shipped by the merchants to Newfoundland and the British provinces. There are about 14 mercantile firms in the colony, of these 5 or 6 confine their operations chiefly to the supply of estates with lumber, staves, shingles, mules, and horses, &c., other estate supplies being generally imported by the proprietors from Great Britain. These supplies of lumber, &c., are conveyed on the windward and leeward coasts, by small vessels called droghers, which are usually owned by the merchants following this branch of business. There are at present but two vessels belonging to one firm which trade abroad. These vessels have been for some time kept continually in the trade between the United States, Newfoundland, and the British Provinces, bringing to this island supplies of flour, pork, beef, corn, corn-meal, cod-fish, &c. The bulk of such supplies is, however, purchased from vessels which arrive with cargoes from the United States, British Possessions, &c., and are owned by parties resident in those countries. These cargoes are sent generally on speculation, and on arrival are submitted by the consignees to competition; they are usually sold

ST. VINCENT.

at three months' credit, and the banks afford accommodation to the purchaser in discounting paper at three months, at six per cent. per annum, which is the legal interest. The usual charge of commission on sale of cargoes is 2½ per cent.; on retail sales, 5 per cent.; on wholesale sales, and for guarantee, 2½ per cent.

The second class of merchants are importers of goods from Great Britain; of these there are about ten. This branch of trade is subject to great change, as the habits of the peasantry are not fixed. Principally they devote their savings to the purchase of land, erecting cottages, &c. Sometimes, however, they expend their means in the purchase of finery. The imports, however, show a steady increase, and this usually is a profitable branch of trade. There are numerous shops, both in the principal towns and villages, and likewise on estates. These are conducted often by illiterate persons, but who show great aptitude for such pursuits, and are generally honest. The want of better system of sales by weights and measures subjects them often, however, to losses. The trade in the island generally is more steady than formerly, and the credits are not so protracted. The profits, therefore, though lessened, are more certain, and better tone exists in the punctuality of all parties; but there is still considerable room for improvement. The want of Bankrupt and Insolvent Debtors' Courts, and laws regulating them, is severely felt, the unfortunate debtor seldom recovering his position in mercantile business. It is also to be desired that our Courts were open throughout the year instead of six months only; this would give additional security to business. Some security is also required for the merchant making supplies to estates which are incumbered by heavy mortgages. At present great want of confidence exists, and severe losses have been sustained lately by several parties. Accounts are generally kept in dollars and cents, as in America; but the old custom which prevailed formerly of currency is not entirely abolished. Accounts are generally made up to the 1st of March; but some persons adopt the 1st of January, others, the 1st of August. The following table of the official value of imports and exports for the last three years shows the gradual increase of the former:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£.	£.
1843	132,987	232,131
1844	141,160	224,069
1845	157,484	202,395

The diminution in the exports is accounted for by the deficiency in the crops from severe drought; in addition to this, in the year 1845, the staple commodity during the first quarter, from depreciation in the home market, was only valued at 18*l.*; in 1843, the value averaged 20*l.* The duties collected at the Treasury on the imports and exports for the same years are—

	Duties on Imports.			Duties on Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1843	5,720	14	8	76	7	9
1844	8,197	16	6	488	9	2
1845	7,990	0	1	717	9	6

In 1843, the export duty was only paid during the first three months of the year.

The following is an enumeration of articles imported and exported within this Government, and the ports with which this traffic exists.

Articles.	Places of Import.	Places of Export.
Ale, Beer, Cider, Porter	England.	When scarcity prevails, or the market is overstocked, these articles are exported to the British West Indian Islands, chiefly Tobago, Grenada, Dominica, Trinidad.
Asses	Curacoa.	
Beef	New York, New Orleans.	
Bread	,, ,,	
Bricks	London and Bristol.	
Butter	England and America.	
Candles	,, ,,	
Cattle	Angostina and Spanish Main.	
Coals	London, Glasgow, &c.	
Cocoa	Grenada.	
Coffee	Trinidad.	
Cheese	Halifax, Wilmington, Bath, United States.	
Flour	American Ports generally.	
Fish	Halifax, St. John's.	
Hams	England and America.	
Horses	Newhaven, Newburn.	
Lard	British American Ports.	
Meal	Philadelphia, &c.	
Mules	Newhaven, &c.	

Articles.	Places of Import.	Places of Export.
Peas, Beans, &c.	New York, Halifax, Wilmington, Ports generally, and Ports in North America.	
Pork, Rice	,, ,,	
Soap	England and America.	
Spirits	England, Martinique, St. Thomas.	
Sugar	England.	
Tea	,,	
Tobacco	America.	
Wines	Madeira, England, Martinique.	
Lumber	Wilmington, New Brunswick.	
Staves	Norfolk Island.	
Glass, Silk, Cotton, Linen, &c., Manufactures.	England.	

XVII. Fisheries.

There are no banks along the coast of this island, and consequently no inducement to engage in such speculation. Whales are often seen in these seas, even close to the shore. Some of the American whalers take this course. One was seen in the last week to capture a whale off the harbour of the capital. Fish are plentiful along the coast, and are caught in great quantities. The king fish, barracouta, grouper, and amber fish, are prized, though, I believe, the cowalhi (green backed) is considered the most preferable fish in these seas. The jack fish is delicate, and is generally so great that it forms an article of food for the poorer classes. Turtle are very abundant. I have not been able to learn the number of the population engaged in fishing in the distant districts, no return being required to be made, and no account kept. In Kingstown there are—

Native Fishermen.	Fishing Boats.	Seine Boats.
127	13	11

To the fishing-boats there is an average of three men; to the seine-boats, eight.

XVIII. Shipping.

Number of vessels owned in St. Vincent, 25—

Description.	
1 Ship.	6 Schooners.
1 Brig.	17 Sloops.

Aggregate tonnage . . 1184 tons.
Men employed . . . 228
Average rate of wages . . . 38*s.* and 40*s.* per month (sterling).

In what trade employed—

European	2
Island Droghers . . .	9
Island Trade	14
	25

XIX. Banks.

In this island a branch of the West India and Colonial Bank is established. They are under the direction of a manager and accountant; and circulate notes from 5 to 20 dollars. Upon first commencing operations, there is no doubt that from granting accommodation too widely, they excited a fictitious trade, which proved disastrous to many. This crisis is, however, past; the managers have attained a knowledge of parties; unhealthy speculation is repressed, and a firmer tone of business established. To responsible and punctual applicants the banks discount paper at 6 per cent. They rule the exchange, but are of infinite benefit and convenience to the agricultural and the mercantile community.

XX. Internal Communication.

The roads declared public highways by Legislative enactment are, the main leeward road of communication from the north-west boundary of Kingstown to the extreme boundary of St. David's parish, 24½ miles, and the windward main road of communication from the south-east boundary of Kingstown to the Fancy Estate, 32 miles; the Vigis Road, the cross road leading through Orange Hill, Waterloo, and Tourama estates, in the Charib country, and all roads leading to forts or fortifications.

There are no recent improvements, for the same system of management has always been persevered in. They are repaired by public contract, under the direction of way-wardens. It is provided by the Highway Act that the public roads shall be 24 feet wide, not including the lateral trenches. This may seem an uncalled-for width, but the provision is too much disregarded. The expenses incurred in repairs, and the annual contracts, are paid at the Treasury, by issue of a warrant from the officer administering the government of the island, upon his receiv-

ST. VINCENT.

ing a certificate from the district way-wardens. The following is the amount of money expended on the roads during the last three years:—

	£.	s.	d.
1843	1435	8	4
1844	1102	19	3
1845	1304	2	5

Taking into consideration the state of the roads, and their extent, this outlay must appear unnecessarily large. Under the present system, however, nothing can be done for its curtailment; for the way-wardens are unpaid, and being occupied in their own affairs, have not time to give that attention which is necessary. I feel assured, and the way-wardens themselves admit, that much expense would be saved, and better roads obtained, by the appointment of an intelligent superintendent, accustomed to such duties. I regard this as a subject of much importance; and as it must be evident how much the prosperity of a country may be enhanced by increasing its facilities of transit and communication, I shall urge the subject upon the consideration of the Legislature. I am not prepared to say that it would be impossible to establish railways between Kingstown and the windward country, with which the greatest traffic exists, but I fear, from the mountainous nature of the country, that the expense would be an insurmountable obstacle. The other public bye roads, of local benefit, are kept in repair by the estates through which they pass, and by other parties, in proportion to the use made of them.

XXI. Revenue.

Receipts and Expenditure for the years 1834 to 1845 inclusive.

	Receipts. £	s.	d.		Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1834	9909	15	2½	1834	9736	10	2½
1835	7916	11	11	1835	8350	12	5
1836	11,846	4	8	1836	11,347	7	8
1837	11,265	11	8	1837	10,809	10	9
1838	12,421	8	3½	1838	9,517	8	3½
1839	9,866	10	8	1839	10,697	11	6
1840	11,351	6	11	1840	12,856	12	7
1841	13,501	12	1	1841	15,497	11	6
1842	13,560	1	10	1842	12,254	9	5
1843	17,984	1	6	1843	15,071	5	10
1844	21,032	5	5	1844	14,259	7	8
1845	23,707	1	5	1845	16,473	17	11

It must be remarked, that the decline in the recipts in 1839, 1840, and 1841, was contingent upon final emancipation.

The considerable increase in the receipts of the years 1842, 3, and 4, is to be accounted for by the operation of the Import Duty Act, under which duties to a very considerable amount, as has been shown in the Table of Commerce, were received. The expenditure is also greater during the last three years; this arises from the additions made to the clerical establishment, expense incurred in repairs of public buildings, and grants to a considerable amount to the sufferers from the earthquake in the northern islands, and from the fire in Barbadoes. By the Import Duty Act the sum of 400*l.* per annum is awarded to the treasurer as remuneration for collecting the Import Duties.

XXII. Taxes and Duties.

The Assessed Taxes, Income Tax, and Table of Duties are so specially detailed in the opening pages of the Blue Book as to render an enumeration unnecessary in these pages. I am of opinion that many of the taxes are objectionable, and require revision. An impost upon the staple production of the land is in particular opposed to the equitable principles of taxation. However, they appear to satisfy the public, and this important subject must have my mature deliberation before I can feel justified in making at length any specific comment, or to suggest any change or improvement.

XXIII. Administrative Divisions and Parishes.

The island contains five parishes:—Charlotte Parish, divided into northern and southern districts:—the united parishes of Saint George and Saint Andrews:—Saint Patrick's Parish and Saint David's Parish.

These are divided into three administrative divisions, the Windward, Kingstown, and Leeward districts in each there is a resident police magistrate and stipendiary justice.

XXIV. Constitution.

The government of the island is vested in a Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, the former is Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral. He is appointed by the Queen's Commission, and receives a salary of 1300*l.* per annum, paid by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury; his fees are stated in page 73 of the Blue Book. His duties are regulated by the Royal Instructions, and by his Excellency, the Governor in Chief, who is

the fountain of reference in all matters of importance, and the channel of commuuication with Her Majesty's Government. All Legislative Bills are transmitted by the Lieutenant-Governor for his assent, accompanied by a report from the Attorney-General on their validity in law; and all appointments above the value of 100*l.* are reported to him. The Council are supplied by the recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor, or by mandamus. The majority in the island constitute a Board, and when the resident number falls below seven, the Lieutenant-Governor is instructed to nominate a fit and proper person to the vacancy. The Council sit in two capacities, privy and legislative; in the former, the Governor presides; in the latter, the senior member, under the title of President, on whom the temporary government devolves in case of the absence or death of the Lieutenant-Governor. Since the appointment of a Bishop he has been sworn in ex-officio a member of Council. An Election Act, repealing "An Act for regulating proceedings at Elections," for extending the franchise, and increasing the number of members, was assented to on 30th November, 1843, and came into operation in the month of February, 1844. The number of members formerly was 19, there are now 25; and the Speaker, instead of being without remuneration, receives a salary of 200*l.* per annum. Five members and the Speaker can form a House, but for the purposes of adjournment only. Thirteen members are required to proceed to business. The qualification required for a seat in the House of Assembly, are:—

A freehold of the net annual value of 100*l.* per annum, or in respect of the produce of which, taxes are paid into the Treasury upon any sum not less than 400*l.* Lessees for five years, paying a rent of 200*l.* per annum; the actual receipt of a clear yearly income of not less than 300*l.* derived as attorneys or managers, or from any profession, trade or business.

Charlotte Parish . . .	returns	6	members.
St. Georges Parish . .	,,	4	,,
Kingstown	,,	4	,,
St. Andrew's Parish . .	,,	3	,,
St. Patrick's Parish . .	,,	3	,,
St. David's Parish . .	,,	3	,,
The Grenadines . . .	,,	2	,,

Qualifications of voters for parishes, and the Grenadines, viz.:—

Freehold of 10*l.* per annum, not in a town; ditto of 20*l.* in a town; leasehold, 20 years, of 40*l.* per annum; yearly tenant of 100*l.*, or income of same amount. For the town of Kingstown, freehold of 5*l.* per annum; lessee or tenant of 40*l.* per annum.

The number of electors who have qualified themselves by registration is comparatively small.

Kingstown.	Parish of St. George's.	Parish of Charlotte.	Parish of St. Andrew's.	Parish of St. Patrick's.	Parish of St. David's.	Grenadines.
87	74	72	40	72	35	8

The Provost Marshal is the returning officer; his duties are specified and regulated by the Election Act; all controverted elections and disputes are tried and settled by the House. The sessions are quarterly, but the sittings of the Legislature seldom extend over more than a week; the Lieutenant-Governor has the power of adjourning, dissolving, and convening the Legislature.

XXV. Religion.

The religious denominations are, Church of England, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic.

It is to be regretted that, with the exception of the Wesleyans, the proportion of the population adhering to each persuasion cannot be obtained. The Wesleyan clergymen state 6366 as the amount of their body, which is believed to be pretty nearly correct.

I have reason to think that the establishment enjoy considerably more adherence than any one of the other sects: that next in point of numbers are the Wesleyans; after them the Roman Catholics; and, last of all, the Presbyterians. By much the larger proportion of the higher and educated classes are members of the Establishment or of the Presbyterian church. The clergy of the Establishment and the Presbyterian clergymen are paid from the revenue of the colony, the Wesleyans and Roman Catholics from funds derived from societies in the Mother Country. The congregations of the two last do, I believe, contribute somewhat to the maintenance of their pastors, but to no great extent. By reference to the "Blue Book," p. 135, it will be seen that the livings and allowances of the Established clergy are on a scale sufficient to enable them to maintain that respectability to which they are entitled, and without which their usefulness would be impaired. The stipend of the Presbyterian minister is 300*l.* per annum. From this gentleman I have learnt that the building in Kingstown, in which he officiates, was purchased and fitted up as a church in 1842, at an expense of about 1200*l.*

The funds for the purpose not being sufficient, a debt was incurred, which has been gradually diminished by a sum of 250*l.*, granted by the Legislature, by the application of the pew rents, and by a collection made at the doors once a-week to its liquidation, and is now reduced to a mere trifle.

The collections on sacramental occasions are given to the poor. The church is neat and commodious, and seated for 300. The pew rents are moderate, being from 10 to 12 dollars. Each pew is capable of accommodating five sitters. The Presbyterian congregation consists

ST. VINCENT.

entirely of white and coloured persons, no Negroes being members. It is on the increase, and the communicants are rapidly becoming more numerous. The clergyman officiates occasionally in other parts of the island, and having no place of worship of his own, is readily accommodated by the Wesleyans.

The churches of the Establishment are very creditable buildings; the large size and handsome appearance of the church in Kingstown muct strike a stranger with surprise, yet it is well filled by a most respectable congregation. The service, too, is conducted in a manner superior to what it often is, even in the larger towns of the Mother Country. The organ is a fine one, and the performance excellent. The rent of the best pews is high, from the competition of the wealthier classes, but sittings in the less desirable positions can be obtained on moderate terms. A number of free sittings were set apart for the Negroes, but their feelings of independence and desire for property have, in this instauce, overcome their love of money, and they disdain to accept of such a gratuity; they insist upon paying for their accommodation, and each individual preserves his seat from intrusion with the most jealous assiduity.

The same remarks may be applied to the other churches of the Establishment throughout the island, and there is no complaint of want of accommodation except in one locality, viz., Biabou.

Here a church is much required; the ground on which it is proposed to erect it is Crown property; it was at one time marked out, and the expense of the building was to have been defrayed from the proceeds of the sale of adjoining lands, also supposed to be the property of the Crown.

It is much to be regretted that doubts as to the right of the Crown to these lands should have imposed an hindrance to the carrying out of this desirable object.

The Wesleyans possess a large number of preaching stations ("Blue Book,"), and there is hardly a secluded valley or hamlet to which their labours are not extended. They are eminently the pastors of the poor. A much superior class of ministers has of late years been located in the island, and their usefulness is great. There is only one Roman Catholic church, viz., in Kingstown, but the priest officiates occasionally in other quarters. It has been remarked that those professing the Roman Catholic religion are a particularly orderly and industrious class of the community. I have much pleasure in saying, as a conclusion to this interesting head, that although there seems to be no want of zeal in behalf of religion, neither in the teachers nor the taught, it does not degenerate into intolerance, and there appears, indeed, a most friendly feeling and cordial co-operation among the clergy in their Christian labours.

The churches are well filled, and the Negroes pay the most decorous attention to the service. It is obvious that a great advance is making, and that rapidly, in the cause of religion, and its influence on the moral habits of the people is becoming every day more apparent.

XXVI. Education.

The schools of greatest extent and importance at present are those of the "Society for the Education of the Poor in the principles of the Established Church." These schools for boys and girls originated 25 years ago, amongst a few coloured gentlemen, and were at first intended only to benefit a few of that complexion; but a more liberal feeling arising among the founders, they threw open the schools to the poor of all classes. These schools were at first under the management of the "Coloured Benevolent Society," who purchased the premises, and conveyed them, in trust, for educational purposes; but on the appointment of Dr. Coleridge as Diocesan, his Lordship recommended the adoption of the present designation, and accepted (like the present Bishop) the chair as president of the Society, the Governor being always the patron, the Rural Dean or senior clerical resident being vice-president. The chairman of the committees, with the treasurer and secretary, are annually elected by the members from the body of subscribers.

The boys of this establishment are under the charge of one master, a white person from Barbadoes, who selects native boys from the school as his assistants.

The girls are instructed by two coloured native young ladies. The master's salary is 125*l.* sterling per annum, without any other allowance.

The matron's salary is 50*l.* per annum, and that of her assistant 15*l.* per annum, without any other allowance.

The funds are created by an annual subscription by members, of one guinea, and a few donations; the liberality of the Legislature augmented the fund by a vote of 100*l.* sterling, and, during the last year, by bill, to 150*l.* per annum. The Home Government also appropriated the balance due this colony on reserved compensation. The number of pupils at the last quarter was 287 boys and girls (all of poor parents); of whites, 3 boys; black and coloured, 284. The school fees are one penny per week, but it is proposed to increase the amount in accordance with the sum paid at other schools of a like nature, which will meet the views expressed by my Lord Stanley on this subject. No child is admissible under 7 years, nor over 14. The branches taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, biblical and general history; and the girls needlework in addition. The children of Episcopal parents are expected to attend church weekly, and form the present choir. The want of schools induced the directors to open to all Christian children the advantages of education, without any regard to sect. The aptitude to acquire knowledge is not less in the children of the Negro than in that of any others attending these schools. The public examination and reward of prizes annually bears out this assertion fully.

There was an infant branch, but this charge is now undertaken by the "Church of England Friendly Society."

The system adopted in teaching is the national, or Bell's. The efficiency of the master is said to be great; he was recommended to the directors by Dr. Coleridge, when Bishop of Barbadoes. The first master was a coloured native, who received a classical education in

Scotland; he was one of the original founders, and died after many years' service as master. The female branches are well conducted by two native ladies, and affords satisfaction to the directors. The recent school measures adopted by the Legislature will increase the number of schools throughout the island. In Kingstown the Wesleyans have one school for boys and girls; the Presbyterians one under a Scottish graduate, endowed with 150*l.* by the Legislature. A proprietary grammar school is being opened, under a clergyman of the Established Church and a lady from England. There are only two private schools in Kingstown, one kept by an accomplished coloured lady, the other is opened by the master of the free-school during his leisure. The desire for education is certainly on the increase, but its power is not yet sufficient to induce the people to make any considerable pecuniary sacrifice.

Parents frequently make it a condition, when sending their children to service, that they shall be allowed time for instruction; but such is the love of money in the Negro character, that there is much difficulty in persuading them to pay the very small school fees which are demanded.

I have been informed by some of the clergy, particularly the Wesleyan, that they have of late met with somewhat more success in this respect, and that by steadily adhering to the system of admitting *gratis* none but the children of very poor parents, they hope gradually not only to have the means of extending the schools, but also to raise the value of education in the estimation of the people; that which is true generally being peculiarly so in the case of the Negro, viz., that what is procured without cost or trouble is looked upon as worthy of little regard.

XXVII. Justice.

Annexed to the Report is a description of the courts of the island and their respective jurisdictions, with an account of the different officers presiding over and attached to them, and a schedule of their emoluments and fees. There are twelve members of the bar, and six resident in the colony; of these two having accepted office as district magistrates, and one, though holding the rank of Solicitor-General, having almost retired from the profession, there are only three in practice, one of whom is Attorney-General. The expense of litigation is unlimited, and the emolument of the practitioners very great.

The administration of justice in this island is conducted on a parsimonious scale, which, as productive of evil, is to be deprecated and regretted. Our courts and statute laws require revision, and the whole system is capable of that improvement which has been long and loudly called for. The assistant justices, engaged as they are in important duties, are unpaid, and while the members of the bar are reaping large incomes, the Chief Justice receives a salary of 500*l.* per annum. In case of his resigning his office there is not a member of the bar who would accept his situation on so small a salary; and no professional gentleman, qualified by talent and experience efficiently to perform its duties, could be expected to relinquish his practice for such inadequate remuneration. The bar is, I believe, not unanimous, as to the mode in which change should be made in the administration of justice, but if this important subject, which I find by reference to the Reports that have of late years accompanied the "Blue Book," has been urged upon the consideration of Her Majesty's Government should at some period interest attention, I would suggest that a committee from the profession be appointed to investigate and report. A custom that particularly calls for amendment is the closing of the court during six months; the Supreme Court of Judicature is open only during one half of the year, from March until August; it need not be said that this arrangement is productive of much inconvenience. It is not that six months are unable to overtake the business, but the lengthened vacation occasions vexation, and often additional expense to litigants. It would, I think, tend to the benefit of the community if the meetings were held quarterly, for a month or six weeks at a time. I believe that the duties of the police and stipendiary justices are, in general, well performed, but the ends of justice would be better attained, and greater confidence in its due administration be bestowed by the great bulk of the people, were an Appeal Court to be established. This matter has, I understand, more than once occupied the attention of the Legislature, but has fallen to the ground from the dread of expense. I am not yet prepared to suggest the most effective constitution for such a Court, and indeed it is a subject regarding which there exists much difficulty and much difference of opinion among the legal profession; but could it be efficiently established at a moderate expense, it may confidently be expected to produce the best effects. It is a subject worthy of much consideration. Juries are selected as in England. The system gives satisfaction.

XXVIII. Population.

The first and only census of this island was taken on the 3rd day of January, 1844. The total amount of the population returned was 27,248.

Males	12,600
Females	14,648
Whites	1,628
Coloured	4,469*
Black	21,511
Trade or Avocations.	
Professions	296
Labourers,	10,842
Tradesmen	1,516
Domestic	1,923

* This number includes 178 Charibs residing to windward, and 95 residing to leeward.—Total 273.

ST. VINCENT.

Under 10 Years.	Under 20 Years.	Under 40 Years.	Under 60 Years.	Above 60 Years.
7,464	4,396	9,257	4,445	1,686

At the period of the census, this was all that remained of these Aborigines. They have an occupancy of 230 acres, granted for their subsistence. Their chief employments are making canoes, baskets, and fish-pots. Their habits are so amphibious, that in rough weather, on the windward coast, the planters are entirely dependent on them for working the large boats, called Moses boats, by which hogsheads of sugar and other produce is transferred to the droghers. In this labour they are most dexterous, but such is their natural indolence, that they can seldom be roused to any exertion, unless rum, to which they are much addicted, is given them. There is a superintendent of Charibs, but he receives no remuneration.

There being yet no law in respect to immigrants, the number cannot be ascertained. Between four to five hundred have lately been introduced from the island of Madeira. They were immediately located upon estates, and from all accounts, have up to this moment, by their diligence, activity, and aptitude for the labour of the country, surpassed expectation. Special reports of their arrival, condition, settlement, and subsequent behaviour, were made to His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief. These immigrants were kindly received by the negroes,, and on the estates where they work together they continue to agree well. For the profitable cultivation of the land, the population is much too limited, and though increasing, it cannot be in proportion to the exigencies of the country. The success of the agriculturists, and the prosperity of the island depends upon extensive immigration. Owing to the exertions of the clergymen and missionaries, and the improved feelings of the people, marriages are much on the increase, but concubinage still widely prevails.

The introduction of a well-devised bastardy law would have a wholesome restraint.

XXIX.—Artisans.

Though the census of 1844 afforded information as to the number of tradesmen in the island, no classification was attempted, and it is impossible to arrive at any just enumeration. The native artisans are very apt, and there are many good workmen among them, but apathy and unsteadiness characterise them as a body.

Many of them know a little of various trades, and they change about as inclination leads. Any engagement they form is seldom to be depended upon; their charges, also, are so exorbitant, that if they pursue their employment for one week, the benefits they derive enable them to indulge their feelings of idleness, by remaining disengaged during the succeeding. Sickness, in such instances, is their favourite excuse. Apprentices are generally bound for the same term as in England, viz., five years, but in this country the indenture is not regarded with equal respect,—here, as soon as the apprentice has gained some knowledge of his craft, and becomes serviceable to his master, in the anxiety of acquiring immediate pecuniary benefit, every artifice is adopted, and every opportunity sought, to free themselves from the remainder of their contract. In this course they are upheld and advised by their parents.

First-class journeymen carpenters can earn at the rate of 18*s*. per week; second class, 12*s*. The master carpenter has no confidence in the men he employs; they will only engage themselves by the day, and leave him in the middle of any work he may have commenced. The journeymen are little better; they come and go as they please, and their example, as a matter of course, is prejudicial. Work is seldom paid for by the square, but by general agreement. The same may be said of masons; their wages also are about the same. Journeymen blacksmiths earn from 25*s*. to 30*s*. per week. I have endeavoured, by inquiry among heads of trades, to elicit suggestions for the improvement of this part of the community, but they have no remedy of their own to offer. All state that the people are too independent, and look to immigration as the only source of cure.

XXX.—Crime.

The total number of prisoners committed in the course of the year, their previous commitments, punishments, age, colour, and ability to read or write, are returned by the Table of the "Blue Book," page 88. The great bulk of magisterial commitments arises from breach of contract, petty larceny, quarrels, and abusive language, arising from the intemperate habits of the people. The more heinous offences are not very prevalent, although I fear, from the quarterly state of the calendar, that the decrease of crime does not keep pace with the exertions that are made for the improvements of the people.

A black prisoner is at present incarcerated on the charge of murder. The evidence against him is of so conclusive a nature that it is probable he will suffer the extreme penalty of the law. No execution has taken place in this island for 10 years.

XXXI.—Prisons.

The only legalized place of imprisonment in this government is the gaol at Kingstown, plans of which accompany this Report.

There are two ergastulums, one at Colonario, in the Windward District, and one at Buoronallis, in the Leeward. These, during the apprenticeship, were used as places of incarceration, and it was wished, I understand, to legalize them as places of imprisonment, but the legislature, dreading the expense that would be entailed upon the public in the forms of improvements, gaoler, matron, &c., rejected the proposition. The buildings are in good repair, but the district magistrates merely employ them as places of confinement for prisoners until they

can be sent to Kingstown. Under these circumstances, the gaol in Kingstown, in construction and discipline, ought to be in strict keeping with the improved state of prison regulation which has been adopted in the mother-country, but I regret to say that the gaol in Kingstown remains unaltered and defective, as stated in former Reports. The cells, four in number, each 12 by 18 feet, and 10 feet from the floor to the spring of the arch (*vide* Plan, No. 1), are by no means sufficiently ventilated; they are not capable of containing more than four prisoners in each, but from necessity, seven or eight persons are frequently placed in them during the night. The four rooms immediately over the cells (*vide* Plan, No. 2), each 20 feet by 14 feet, are much better ventilated. They were intended for debtors; when not so occupied they are used by the other prisoners, and every effort, by judicious arrangement and cleanliness, is made by the officers to preserve health. Prisoners committed to goal during the year—

Felons.		Debtors.		Misdemeanors.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
57	9	6	..	211	62

Total prisoners, 1845 345
Total ditto, 1844 255

An increase of . . 90

Prisoners under 15 years of age, 3.
Prisoners that could not read, 88 men, 5 women.
Punishments inflicted during the year for unruly conduct, 16.
Escapes from gaol, 2.
Escapes when out at work, 8; 3 not recaptured.
Prisoners committed 1st time, 191.
2nd „ 80.
3rd „ 74.

Greatest number of prisoners in gaol at any one time, 54.

Limited accommodation prevents any classification of the prisoners beyond the separation of the sexes.

The prisoners have no instruction whatever; there is no discipline enforced, or occupation assigned to prisoners untried, or to those not sentenced to hard labour; they, therefore, for successive weeks or months, are in idleness; the demoralizing result must be obvious.

Divine service is performed in the gaol each Sunday morning. Annexed is a Table received from the surgeon of the gaol, showing the cases of sickness throughout the year.

One prisoner died in gaol, and 13 others were discharged by the executive on application made by the surgeon. This discharge of those whom the law has doomed to its various penalties is perhaps unparalleled in the annals of prison discipline, but when the unhealthy state of the gaol threatens death to the unfortunate prisoner, his discharge can hardly be refused.

Surgeon's Return.

Diseases.	Number of Cases.	Deaths.	Births.	Remaining.
Fever	36	1	1	35
Diarhœa	1	..	..	1
Constipation . . .	5	..	..	5
Catarrh	10	..	..	10
Abscesses	1	..	..	1
Ulcers	4	..	..	4
Lumbago	1	..	..	1
Itch	1	..	..	1
Retention of Urine .	2	..	..	2

It is expected that the drainage of the swamp (see Plan, No. 3), which is now well advanced, will improve the healthiness of the gaol; in which case, an extension or better arrangement of the building may with advantage be effected, as ground adjoins which can be made available for that purpose (see Plan, No. 3), but should it not, the erection of a new building will be rendered necessary.

XXXII.—Hospitals.

The only hospital in the island was founded in the year 1842. By legislative enactment it is endowed with 200*l.* sterling per annum; but as this amount, though husbanded with economy, could not support such an institution to any extent, its funds are augmented by voluntary contributions, and by the various annual subscriptions which entitle the subscribers to recommend one or more patients. The board of directors is appointed by letters-patent issued by the executive, and consists of a chairman and six directors, from which number a treasurer and

ST. VINCENT.

secretary is appointed. The surgeon, superintendent, and matron are appointed by the directors. The salary of the surgeon is 50*l.* per annum. He is expected to visit the patients daily. A laboratory is attached to the hospital under his control. The superintendent resides on the premises. The salaries are 20*l.* each per annum.

Number of patients admitted into hospital by last return:—

Discharged cured and relieved	23
Died	9
Patients in ward	5
	37
Number of paupers in hospital	10
Number of poor on soup-list relieved out of doors by one meal daily	14
Total relieved by justices	61

Any owners or consignees of vessels trading to this port, and contributing the sum of 10 dollars each voyage to the funds of the institution, are authorized to send the disabled seamen of each vessel to the hospital during the voyage.

In this Report frequent reference has been made to the independent feelings of the people, but in support of this nothing stronger can be adduced than the following extract from the annual Report of the Colonial Hospital:—"The directors have had, and still experience, great difficulty in endeavouring to divest the minds of many of the idea that it is disgraceful to ask aid at the hospital, or seek the shelter which it affords."

This feeling, I hope, however, will be overcome, and the institution, so creditable to the community, increase and flourish. An asylum for lunatics and lepers is desirable; the latter is under legislative consideration.

XXXIII.—Police.

The police force of the Government, within this island and its dependencies, is composed of—

1 Inspector,
7 Corporals,
34 Policemen,

who are appointed under and by virtue of the authority of the Act "for the appointment of Police Magistrates, and providing a Police Force, by the Lieutenant-Governor and Officer administering the Government," and is distributed as follows:—

1	Corporal and	14	Privates,	Kingstown District.
1	„	6	„	Calliagua „
2	„	6	„	Windward „
3	„	6	„	Leeward „
		2	„	Grenadines „

The force of the Kingstown district is placed under the immediate superintendence of the inspector, and under his general authority; in the out districts under the magistrates. The whole force receive their pay monthly from the treasury at the following rates:—

	£.	
Inspector	150	per annum.
Corporal (Kingstown)	60	„
Corporals (Districts)	50	„
Privates	40	„

The force is reported generally to be sober, active, and obedient.

XXXIV.—Public Offices.

The various public offices, the individuals employed therein, their duties, emoluments, length of services, &c., are specified in the Table of the "Blue Book," "Civil Establishment," page 69. Every comment, with regard to the public officers, must be derived from personal observation, and my residence has been too brief to permit my offering any decided opinion with regard to them; a more lengthened observation will enable me to form my conclusions.

XXXV.—Military Establishment.

Page 47 of the "Blue Book" shows a "Return of Militia." The Militia Act came into operation on 28th August, 1845. The officers are appointed; the ballot has lately taken place, but the arms and accoutrements not having arrived, the regiment has not yet been embodied. It is to be a rifle corps. This is deservedly considered a healthy station for British troops. The barracks are contained in Fort Charlotte, which overlooks the town of Kingstown, at a distance of about a mile, and overhanging the sea. They are capable of quartering with comfort from 200 to 250 men, and are in a state of good repair.

XXXVI.—Literature.

Little of interest can be said on this subject: there are three newspapers published weekly, one being the medium of all official notices; at present there are no circulating and no subscription libraries, but their establishment has lately been proposed, and so favourably responded to, that I am sanguine the attempt will not prove abortive.

XXXVII.—Coins, Weights, and Measures.

The coins are enumerated in the "Blue Book" (page 146). It may be mentioned that the doubloon is now rarely met with. The rate of exchange is also specified in the same table. The weights and measures are the same as in England.

XXXVIII.—Prices of Common Articles of Life.

These few are not stated in page 176 of the "Blue Book:"—

Fish, 4*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.
Fowls, 18*s.* to 24*s.* per dozen.
Turkeys, 16*s.* to 20*s.* a piece.
Guinea-birds, 6*s.* 3*d.* to 8*s.* 4*d.* per pair.
Eggs, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per dozen.
Milk, 6¼*d.* to 8*d.* per quart.
Potatoes in hampers imported, 25 lbs., 4*s.* to 6*s.*

The native vegetables are more expensive than would be expected, which is accounted for by the limited cultivation, the negroes being the only persons who rear vegetables for sale.

XXXIX.—Domestic Servants.

The wages of this class are high, and taking their inefficiency into consideration, much more so than in England. Taking advantage of the demand for domestics, they are by no means anxious to perform their duties with care or fidelity; and even when treated with liberality and kindness, they appear to acquire no attachment, and seek new employment upon some momentary whim.

It is to be hoped that the foregoing Report is calculated to give, upon the whole, a favourable impression with regard to the state and prospects of the colony.

In taking a view of its institutions, and the condition of the population, it must ever be kept in mind that they have, within a few years, undergone a vast social change, and that the present can yet be looked upon only as a transition state.

Prejudices still exist which have an evil effect by lessening confidence among the different races; and although it is obvious that they are gradually softening down, it will require some time before their complete eradication can be effected.

Education is what must be looked to as the most powerful agent in bringing about this desirable object. At present, few of the coloured class and none of the Negro are capable of being placed in situations of trust; and there is thus such a broad line of demarcation widening that of colour, between them and the white population, as occasions sentiments of distrust and apprehension on the one hand, and a feeling of overweening superiority on the other. The Negroes must always form the great bulk of the labouring population; but it is to be hoped that, as many of them are rapidly acquiring wealth, they will also turn their attention to the education of their children, and thereby render them qualified to become candidates for the higher situations in the colony.

With this in view, it is very pleasing to remark the yearly increasing efforts to afford the means of education, which have already been successful to the extent at least of awakening an increased interest in the breast of the Negro, and which will, beyond a doubt, operate a great revolution in the relations of society, producing a most healthful social regeneration.

John Campbell, Lieutenant-Governor.

The Court of Chancery of this island consists of a Chancellor (who is the Lieutenant-Governor of this island for the time being), a registrar, a number of masters, at present four in number, and a sergeant-at-arms: there are no salaries attached to these offices, but all are paid by fees contained in the docket annexed. The jurisdiction of this court is the same in this island as that of the High Court of Chancery in England.

The Supreme Court of Judicature has the same jurisdiction as the Court of Queen's Bench in England. The Honourable John Peterson is chief justice of this court; his salary amounts to 520*l.*, his fees average 160*l.*; this salary is paid from the colonial chest: he is assisted by three assistant justices, who receive no emolument whatever, except in the absence of the chief justice, when the senior assistant justice is entitled to half the salary, and all the fees which accrue to the office.

The secretary or prothonotary of this court is paid by fees.

The sheriff, called here the provost-marshal, is also paid by fees; the fees of both these officers will be found in the docket annexed.

The Court of Grand Sessions of the Peace is the chief criminal court, and has the same jurisdiction as the courts of assize, and is held quarterly on the first Tuesday in the months of February, May, August, and November; the president of this court receives a salary as chief justice, as above stated. He is assisted by the members of council and the assistant justices in their respective seniorities; there is no salary or fees for this office.

ST. VINCENT.

The clerk of the Crown receives a salary of 50*l.* from the colonial chest in lieu of fees; the provost-marshal receives 25*l.* in lieu of fees. The attorney-general is Crown counsel, and receives 200*l.* per annum for conducting the criminal prosecutions and drawing up the indictments.

In cases of emergency, the officer administering the government has power to issue a commission of Oyer and Terminer, with the same jurisdiction as the Court of Grand Sessions of the Peace and the same officers.

The Court of Vice Admiralty is presided over by the Governor-general.

The Chief Justice is judge of this court, and there is a surrogate and registrar; the fees are settled by 2 William IV. chap 51.

The Court of Ordinary has jurisdiction over all testamentary dispositions, letters, testamentary letters of administration, marriage licences, &c. The Lieutenant-governor is sole ordinary; there is a registrar; the barristers act as proctors, the fees are the same as in Chancery.

The Court of Error is presided over by the Governor and Council, and has jurisdiction over appeals from the Supreme Court of Judicature; the fees are governed by the docket of fees in Chancery: this court is very seldom resorted to; the last cause was in April, 1834; since 1815 there have been only 12 writs of error issued.

The Police Courts have a wide jurisdiction over assaults, thefts, petty debts, and a variety of causes; the fees are annexed.

Government House, Barbados,
March 18, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE received duplicates of the "Blue Book" of St. Vincent for the year 1845, and your Excellency's Despatch, No. 500, February 7, 1846, enclosing a general Report on the state of the island, together with a plan of the Kingstown Gaol.

The defect of the "Blue Book," in not exhibiting any schedule of fees, is supplied, as to the Courts of Justice and the magistracy, by the annexation of a schedule to your Excellency's general Report; and upon the whole the manner in which the book is made up is so considerable an improvement upon preceding years, that I am reluctant to ask your Excellency to call the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the comparatively few defects and inaccuracies, which on this occasion I have observed. It may be useful, however, with a view to the preparation of the next returns, to suggest, that a more detailed statement of the expenditure seems to be desirable; and that, for instance, the item of "accounts against the public" ought to be further explained. Under the head of local revenue, it strikes me that the pew rents of the churches maintained by the colony ought to be returned, together with a statement of the purposes to which they are appropriated.

Your Excellency will oblige me by saying, whether the returns of exports and imports have been prepared with such care and means of information that reliance may be placed upon them. A comparison of those returns from the five colonies included in this government, leads to some curious inferences as to the relations which each respectively bears to the prosperity of the island.

The "Blue Book" of Grenada makes the proportion of the exports to the imports about three to two; that of St. Vincent makes it only about four to three; whilst that of Barbados is only eight to seven.

I observe at pp. 186, 187 of the "Blue Book," the return of a grant of land to Harry Roache Hackshaw, and the number of acres is stated in page 186 to be 100, and on page 187 to be 200; and it is said that it was sold for 10*s.* an acre. These circumstances, and the remarks in your Excellency's general Report on the subject of the Crown lands, make me desirous to know under what circumstances, and in what form that grant was made to Hackshaw. I could at any time, in perfect consistency with my instructions, authorize your Excellency to sell waste Crown lands by public auction, at the upset price of 20*s.* per acre, 10 per cent of the purchase money being paid down at the sale, and the remainder within a month after; nor should I feel much difficulty in the circumstances stated by your Excellency, as to authorizing sales of smaller lots than 40 acres; but I have hitherto abstained from giving any instructions for such purposes, from an apprehension that under Sir William Struth's presidency there would have been considerable difficulty in establishing a regular and steady system for the sale of waste lands, by reason of the undefined and vague grants or commissions of occupancy, which from time to time have been issued in St. Vincent, both by Sir William Struth and some of his predecessors, and which I am authorized to say Her Majesty's Government regards as objectionable. The stipendiary magistrates have stated also in their reports, that a fraudulent practice is not unfrequent of prevailing on the negro labourers to purchase small allotments from parties who know that they themselves have no title nor saleable interest in the land. These circumstances, and the difficulty which has been experienced in obtaining any clear view, and in arriving at any satisfactory conclusion as to the fair and equitable state of the question respecting the Henry Vale estate, seemed to indicate such an uncertain and loose condition of the Crown lands, that I have felt some uneasiness and anxiety as to the consequences of any declaration of a plan on the part of the Government for a general sale of them, and some apprehension that it might be impossible to carry it into execution, without its giving rise to a great deal both of discontent and unfair dealings, to the unjust gain of some, and the equally unjust detriment of others. But I quite agree with your Excellency in thinking the subject one of the greatest interest and importance to the island, and one which ought no longer to be neglected, but taken in hand with steady views, definite objects, a methodical system, and practical means of execution. This will be no slight undertaking, if Sir

W. Struth was right in reporting the waste Crown lands to amount to nearly 50,000 acres, and that nearly 30,000 of these are available for ordinary purposes of cultivation. The French grant to Mrs. Swinburne, and the repurchase or extinguishment of that claim by the British Crown in 1786, which are mentioned in your Excellency's Report, although they are curious and material facts, will go but a little way towards settling the question of title, or of right or equity, which are likely to arise. I am not accurately informed what constitutes a prescriptive title in St. Vincent; but in Barbados, six years adverse possession is held to be sufficient under one of the old colonial enactments; and your Excellency is aware, that without the particular direction of the Secretary of State, we are not at liberty to employ the name of Her Majesty or the prerogative of the Crown to defeat any title, which would be a valid bar against the claim of a private party. When these considerations are brought to bear upon what I understand to have taken place in St. Vincent, with respect to commissions or permissions of occupancy, any general resumption and sale of Crown lands, presents as I have said rather an appalling risk of alarm, remonstrance, litigation, and confusion, which, however, with due caution and preparation ought to be encountered; and I feel a real and great satisfaction in thinking that there are no hands to which the task could be more safely confided than in those of your Excellency, who will confer upon the Government a great obligation by reporting, in the first place, to what extent the system of authorized occupancy has in fact proceeded; whether the occupants are considered either by themselves or the Government to have any claim of pre-emption, and what other difficulties would be likely to arise from the occupancies in the progress of an active and general sale of the occupied lands, and what is the exact method which your Excellency would recommend to be pursued in carrying on the sale of the whole of the Crown lands; it being always understood, that the most absolute impartiality and unqualified fairness to all parties, high or low, are to be observed; that publicity and fulness of notice, and facilities of inquiry and examination, and a stern and severe prohibition of extortion or jobbing, are necessary means for securing any advantages or preventing great mischief; and that the Crown, as a general rule, is to go no further than a private party might go in enforcing its claim or asserting its title, and that the only method of alienation which the Secretary of State, according to my latest instructions, can be expected to sanction is, that of absolute sale by public auction, at the upset price of 20*s.* an acre, and on the condition of prompt payment.

I shall have to write with more particularity on some points connected with this subject; but I have been unwilling to omit the present opportunity of inviting your Excellency to enter upon it generally, and with a view to a comprehensive system of sales.

Her Majesty's Government, I am confident, will highly appreciate the valuable information which your Excellency's general report comprises, both on this head and on all others connected with the good government and welfare of the island, and in the few cursory remarks upon that report which I am about to add, I hope that my object and intention, which is to say only what may be useful, together with my want of time, will afford a sufficient excuse for any apparent want of ceremony or detailed explanation.

The suggestion at page 17 of a corporation for the town of Kingstown presents some of the questions as one which I have had to consider here of a corporation for Bridgetown; and although I was at first inclined in favour of it, further reflection has made me think, that in an island so small as this, such a subdivision of political authority is not required; that it might rather distract the government and stand in the way of the general improvement of the island; that it would create needless expense which might require a system of tolls to support it; and that, like the old town corporations of England, it might become a shelter and a nest of abuses. One of the most opposite tests, however, of the benefits or evils of such an institution in St. Vincent or Barbados, would be an inquiry into the results of the corporation of Kingstown, Jamaica, of which I must confess myself to be at present uninformed.

Upon the remarks at page 27, that the negro is addicted to ardent spirits. I think myself bound to say, that there is no country in which I have ever been where there is less of any open appearance, or, as far as I am informed, less of the habit of intoxication amongst the labouring class, than in Barbados. I believe, indeed, that it is a very general practice to give both the women and the men allowances of rum as a part of their day's wages, but nothing leads me to suppose that they indulge in drinking at their own cost. In England, in Canada, and even in the north of India, I have met labourers and farmers returning from market "roaring drunk;". in Barbados, I have never yet observed a drunken negro in the public street or high road.

At page 40, the outlay in 1845 of 1,304*l.* on the roads, is regarded as large, "when the extent and condition of them is taken into consideration," a remark of which I do not question the accuracy; but, in Barbados, we have expended nearly 10,000*l.* sterling on the roads within the last six months, and it is generally considered to be money well laid out.

This, however, has been done under the superintendence of an active and intelligent surveyor-general for the whole island. With respect to the practicability of a railway, it has always appeared to me that a rocky coast affords facilities rather than impediments to the formation of a bed for a railway, by blasting the rocks and throwing down the faces of them, so as to keep the course of the railway just above high-water mark. A railway of this sort round the base of each of the Windward Islands, with inclined planes or tramways for rolling down the produce from the interior, would probably lead to the separation of the manufacture of sugar from the cultivation of the plant, and would substitute for the boiling-houses in the several estates a few large sugar manufactories at the shipping ports.

I agree generally in the opinion at page 42 as to the taxes, but only on the supposition of an acreage tax on all estates throughout the island being substituted for the tax on the staple production.

ST. VINCENT.

At page 43, the statement of the form of government, though sufficient for practical purposes, is not precisely accurate. The Governor in Chief, by his commission under the great seal, has the same power as governor in each of the four Windward Islands of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, and Tobago, and is the chancellor in each; but he is directed to reside usually in Barbados, and Lieutenant-governor is appointed under the royal sign manual for each of those islands in which the Governor does not ordinarily reside, and is empowered by his commission to do, in the absence of the Governor, whatever might be done by him if present, but with instructions to obey the orders of the Governor, and, in certain cases, not to act without previously consulting him.

Upon the subject of the site for a church at Brabon, which is mentioned at page 47, your Excellency is aware that a correspondence has for some time been going on and is still pending.

The recommendation at page 53, that a report should be obtained from the members of the profession of the law, as to the best mode of improving the general administration of justice throughout these colonies, appears to me to be a very good one.

I am truly sorry to find at pages 59 and 60, that the gaol still remains in so objectionable a state, and that it has been necessary, on account of the fever from miasma, to recur to the measure which Sir R. Doherty had before of releasing the prisoners; but seeing that some works are in progress, and that the subject has engaged your Excellency's attention, I have only to recommend it with all earnestness to the care of the local government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES EDWARD GREY, Governor.

(True Copies, &c.)

T. F. PILGRIM, Private Secretary.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor of St. Vincent,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 14.

(No. 11.)

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE to Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY.

SIR, Downing-street, May 12, 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, St. Vincent, No. 7, of 20th March, enclosing Lieutenant-Governor Sir J. Campbell's general report on the state of the Colony under his government, to accompany the Blue Book for 1845. I have read the Lieutenant-Governor's report with great interest, and I beg you to convey to him my acknowledgments for the very full and able exposition which it contains.

I have caused extracts of some portions of it to be communicated to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, and of others (accompanied by extracts of your own Despatch to the Lieutenant-Governor of 18th March), to the Commissioners for Colonial Land and Emigration.

I observe that the Lieutenant-Governor reports the admission of all children, without distinction of sect, to the schools established on the principles of the Church of England.

I should be glad to be informed on what plan of religious instruction this is effected, and whether any distinction be admitted as to the Catechism, and as to other particulars of religious instruction between children belonging to the Church and the rest. You will be pleased to direct the Lieutenant-Governor's attention to this point, with a view to some further explanation in his next annual report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 15.

(No. 20.)

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. C. E. GREY to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Government House, Barbados,

SIR, May 5, 1846.

Sir J. Campbell to Sir C. Grey. No. 530, April 17th, 1846.

WITH reference to my Despatch, St. Vincent, No. 7, March 20, 1846, I have the honour to lay before you some additional remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, which have been called forth by my Despatch to

His Excellency, No. 473, March 18, a copy of which was enclosed in my above-mentioned Despatch, No. 7, to the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES EDWARD GREY, Governor.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Encl. in No. 15.

Saint Vincent, Government House,
17th April, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's despatch, No. 473, Barbados, March 18th, 1846, and to reply to the various remarks and queries therein contained to the extent of my present information, although I hope soon to be put in possession of more ample materials with reference to some of the subjects which it embraces.

THE BLUE BOOK.

The attention of the Colonial Secretary has been called to your Excellency's remarks on the Blue Book; and, while he expresses himself much gratified by the approbation with which your Excellency has been pleased to view it generally, he will in future do all in his power to supply the deficiencies which have been pointed out. The accounts against the public are chiefly composed of small debts, incurred for various necessary services, and are very numerous. They are all paid by warrants under my hand, addressed to the treasurer, and I have always examined them with care, although they previously pass the ordeal of a committee of the House of Assembly.

I presume that it will be enough to enter them in the Blue Book, under general heads, without detailing each individual account.

It had occurred to me, that "the pew rents in the churches maintained by the colony ought to be returned, together with a statement of the purposes to which they are appropriated," and I accordingly requested the Colonial Secretary to obtain such a return. In this he did not succeed, but I have every reason to believe that next year it will be forthcoming.

The returns of "imports" and "exports" have been prepared from returns by the treasurer, to whom the value of all articles must be declared, with a view to the exaction of the duties; of course such returns cannot be absolutely correct, and are likely to show a smaller amount both of import and export than actually exists. I have no ground, however, to doubt that they have been prepared with such care and means of information, that reliance may be placed upon their not being far from exact: and, indeed, I know of no other source from which they can be derived than from the treasury.

HACKSHAW'S GRANT AND PURCHASE.

Mr. Hackshaw's purchase was of 200 acres for 100*l*. The discrepancy which your Excellency has remarked in the different pages of the Blue Book must be attributed to a clerical error, and does not appear in the copy furnished to me for my use.

In 1837 Mr. Hackshaw addressed a memorial to the Secretary of State, representing that he had been in possession of 200 acres of Crown land for upwards of 20 years, which he offered to purchase at a nominal price. Lord Glenelg, the Secretary of State at that period, by despatch directed the proposal to be referred to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, by his order, fixed 10*s*. per acre as a reasonable price to be paid for the land; which was accordingly purchased at that rate by Mr. Hackshaw, the deed of sale bearing date the 13th November, 1839. This land is composed of mountain and forest, adjoining the cultivated portions of Mr. Hackshaw's estate. His object in purchasing it was to secure himself from the annoyance of squatters, woodcutters, &c.

Downing Street, 27th April, 1837.

Order, dated 26th Sept. 1837.

CROWN LANDS.

There can be no doubt that a large proportion of the Crown lands available for ordinary purposes of cultivation would, if exposed to sale in the manner and on the terms stated by your Excellency, readily find purchasers at a price much beyond the upset of 1*l*. sterling per acre. It is only too true that fraudulent sales to the negroes have been effected to a considerable extent. An attempt to carry through a survey, with a view to such a sale, was brought under my notice shortly after my arrival, to which I immediately put a stop.

Were the Crown lands exposed to fair public competition, these evil practices must come to an end, and it strikes me that this would not be the least desirable effect of the measure.

Grants of Occupancy have no doubt occasioned some confusion and difficulty, but I am not aware that it is by any means insuperable. They have invariably been given in terms of resumption, at the pleasure of the Crown; and, as far as my information has yet reached, are not regarded in the light of property by any of the grantees. They, perhaps, expect a preference when their grants are exposed to sale; but I do not see that either justice or expediency demands that any such preference should be accorded. It is very likely that, although they have already derived great profit from the occupation, they will receive still further advantage, from the reluctance of parties to bid against them. This, of course, cannot be interfered with, and, I should hope, would be sufficient to prevent any dissatisfaction. This is one of the subjects on which my information is not so perfect as is to be desired, and it shall be my study to

ST. VINCENT.

make myself master of the extent and nature of each individual grant, which I shall lose no time in reporting to your Excellency; although, even after the difficulties arising from occupancy are cleared away, the sale of the Crown lands, taken in hand, as your Excellency well expresses it, "with steady views, definite objects, a methodical system, and practical means of execution," will still be no slight undertaking.

I am prepared to take it in hand, with the advice and assistance of your Excellency, and to devote my best energies to its accomplishment, being satisfied that it will add greatly to the prosperity of this colony. Twenty years' adverse possession are here required to constitute a prescriptive title; but I submit, as all grants of occupancy bear on the face of the deeds themselves a power of resumption at pleasure, that, as regards them, no length of time can bar the right of the Crown to exercise that power. The case is different as regards unauthorized encroachments, which there is every reason to believe are of very considerable extent, but the limits of which it is impossible to ascertain, from the absence of well-defined boundaries in so rugged a country. In most instances, I fear, these will require to be tacitly left in the possession of the occupiers, as any attempt at eviction would be attended with litigation, expensive to the Crown, and most onerous to many private parties. The deeds of occupancy not being recorded, some difficulty will be experienced, and some time required, in ascertaining the exact nature and extent of all and each of them. I have, however, directed means to be taken which I hope will soon enable me to report fully to your Excellency on this subject, which, indeed, must be regarded as forming the first step towards a general sale of the Crown lands.

Several years ago diagrams were executed by the late Mr. Billinghurst, Crown and Colony Surveyor, which were supposed to be very accurate, and to mark the proper boundaries of most of the estates in the island.

These plans are in the hands of Mr. Billinghurst's executors, who some time ago proposed to sell them to the colony, but the proposition was not entertained. If a systematic sale of the Crown lands is resolved upon, it is possible that the Legislature will be disposed to grant a sum of money for the purchase of these diagrams; and if their correctness is found to be such as is represented, they will much facilitate the progress of the measure.

From what I have said, your Excellency will readily perceive that I am not yet in a condition to state "what is the exact method which I would recommend to be pursued in carrying out the sale of the whole of the Crown lands," but it will be my object to do so with as little delay as possible; and in the meantime some of my remarks may, perhaps, be useful in suggesting the points on which your Excellency's valuable advice may be afforded.

Corporation for Kingstown.

When in my Report a corporation for Kingstown was recommended, the impression was strong on my mind that some change in the administration should be effected. There seems, indeed, no proper supervision: huts are crowded together, in total disregard of health, comfort, or cleanliness, and were a fire to break out, one must tremble to contemplate the result.

The legitimate sources of revenue are not made available, and no improvement can be attempted for want of funds. It appeared to me that these matters might be better ruled under a corporation, but I must confess that the political difficulties pointed out by your Excellency did not present themselves to me, and I shall avail myself of the suggestion, to make inquiry into the results of the corporation of Kingstown, Jamaica.

Intemperance.

I much fear that in this island temperance among the negroes is not so well observed as, from your Excellency's statement, it is in Barbados. It is quite true that a drunk negro is rarely to be seen in the streets or on the roads, and yet there is no doubt that the use of ardent spirits is carried to an extent productive of great evils. In almost every negro village or collection of houses spirits are sold, notwithstanding every effort to put down the practice.

The quantity of rum consumed is great in proportion to the population; and, in addition, smuggling is carried on to a very considerable extent.

The secluded bays on the leeward coast, and the numerous small islands, afford such facilities for this illicit traffic, that it can never be prevented without a coast guard and small revenue cruisers. There is reason to believe that by far the larger proportion of violent crimes are committed under the influence of ardent spirits. The negro is naturally irascible and of unruly passions, and the excitement occasioned by a quantity of drink, which would merely elevate a European, converts him for a time into a madman. The cure of this evil can be expected to come only gradually, from the remedies afforded by education, and a consequent higher standard of morality and self-respect. But in the mean time, it is much to be desired that the practice of giving spirits to labourers were totally abolished; it encourages a taste for liquor, and a habit of requiring it as a necessary of life, which in this climate, to say nothing of the moral effects, must be prejudicial to health. This subject has, I am glad to say, been brought under the consideration of the Legislature, and there is cause to hope that a considerable modification, if not a total abolition of the practice, will soon be brought about.

Public Roads.

There can be no doubt that a much larger sum than is at present annually expended upon the roads might be laid out with great advantage; but it would require to be done, as in Barbados, under the superintendence of an active and intelligent Surveyor General. I am in hopes that such an officer may ere long be appointed. Several communications have reached me from parties in London who have projected a railway in this island, to whom I have given all the information in my power and within my reach, but I am not very sanguine that the result of

their inquiries is such as to induce them to carry through the undertaking. The chief obstacles are presented by high precipitous points, called "bluffs," which project into the sea. These are very numerous along the line, and though composed of a friable rock, would occasion heavy expense in cutting or tunnelling; an expense which I fear the traffic would not justify; but the benefit a railway would confer would be so great, that every means shall be used to forward its construction, if found practicable.

THE GAOL.

There has been no serious sickness in the gaol for some time, and it is to be hoped that the draining of the swamp in its neighbourhood will be of use; but the building itself demands great improvement, for the effecting of which I expect that the Legislature will at no distant period give a grant of money.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN CAMPBELL, Lieut.-Governor.

(True Copy.) T. F. PILGRIM, Private Secretary.

ST. LUCIA.

(No. 12.) No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Government House, Barbados.

SIR, April 2, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the general Report for 1845 of the condition of the Island of St. Lucia, by the Officer administering the Government, together with a Report on the state of the law, by the Chief Justice.

No. 22, January 4th, 1846. Minute, &c.

I will not upon this occasion revive the discussion of the taxes of St. Lucia, which came before the Secretary of State last year, and to which a portion of the present General Report seems to have reference.

I certainly have formed an opinion, and not without some reflection, that the best taxes for sustaining the necessary functions of internal government are, a tax of moderate, uniform, and fixed amount, for every acre or fraction of an acre of land in which a fee simple (or in St. Lucia any equivalent estate) is claimed, with low and steady duties on all imports; but I have not the slightest inclination to urge the adoption of such an opinion in opposition to any conclusions of her Majesty's Government, nor am I reluctant to be convinced by the results of experience in St. Lucia, that it is erroneous to found any general conclusion upon the supposition that habits of drinking have usually prevailed most in those countries in which strong liquors have been most subjected to highly organized systems of internal excise.

I cannot say that I agree in the opinion expressed at p. 15, that it will be expedient to raise the export duties for the purpose of providing a bounty on the importation of labourers; but I have considerable hopes that to a moderate extent St. Lucia may now obtain constantly from Barbados some recruits to her labouring population.

With a view to the removal of difficulties founded on differences of religion, which are said to obstruct the general formation of schools, I beg to refer to my recent Despatch on the subject of education general, No. 12, March 23, 1846.

The scheme for a militia (pp. 46—49) would make it, I fear, too large for St. Lucia to pay, and I have very little hope of any unpaid militia being made effective in the present condition of any of these colonies; but I have an intention of bringing before the Council and Assembly of Barbados a plan by which, as it seems to me, a paid force of about one in a hundred of the population of any of these islands might be sufficiently trained and drilled at a moderate expense. The doubt would still remain whether, if at any time it should become necessary to keep them all embodied for any considerable period, the inhabitants or the local Legislatures would be reconciled to the cost.

Upon Colonel Torrens' expression of a wish either for increased powers, or for a freer use of those which he possesses, I have no other remark to make than that I am not aware of my having in any one instance altered or modified the course of his administration of the Government, in which I have not either acted upon precise instructions, or received the subsequent approbation of Her Majesty's Government. If any change had to be made in the form of the

ST. LUCIA.

Government of St. Lucia, my present impressions would lead me to recommend a division of the island into five districts, with a municipality for each, possessing powers of local regulations and taxation, subordinate to those of the Legislative Council, or at least requiring the confirmation of the Executive Government.

Chief Justice Reddie's Outline of the Legal Institutions of St. Lucia, like all his other compositions, is very clear and able; but I cannot say that either the Despatches of the officers administering the Government, or the proceedings of the Legislative or the Executive Council bear his Honour out in the supposition that the system of assessors in the Criminal Court has given general satisfaction. A fresh ordinance for the establishment of trial by jury has again been proposed to me, and with my consent will again, I believe, be brought before the Legislative Council forthwith. Nor can I acquiesce in his Honour's plan for taking from the magistrates of St. Lucia the power which is possessed by those in every other island of determining cases of petty debt, and of enforcing payment by imprisonment for a limited number of days. But I wish that the enforcement of mortgages could be left as efficient as the Chief Justice represents it to be, without its having the effect of extinguishing and sweeping away agreements made, and partly carried into execution, between labourers or small farmers and mortgagors in possession; and I did hope that the operation of *saisies arrêts* had already been restricted to monies actually due, and not including daily wages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES EDWARD GREY, Governor.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 16.

Enclosure in No. 16.

SIR, Saint Lucia, January 4, 1846.

I HEREWITH forward the annual Blue Book.

The following observations are intended to serve as my annual Report on the island, to accompany the blue book. A late circular despatch communicated the intention of Her Majesty's Government to lay these annual Reports for the first time on the table of the House of Commons at its present session. The actual condition, aspect, and resources of St. Lucia are little known in England; I conceive myself bound, therefore, to be somewhat detailed in my report on these matters, into which opportunity and attentive observation have afforded me some insight.

II.—1. The present population of St. Lucia is officially computed at 21,457. The census of 1844 gave 21,001 as the total, probably, however, far below the real amount. The difficulty may be imagined with slight administrative means of enumerating a population, which, though scanty, occupies an extent of mountainous and wooded country of 150 miles in circumference; a difficulty then further aggravated by the apprehension of the negroes that the measure was preparatory to the reimposition of a poll-tax, with which former experience rendered them already familiar. Hence many evasions and inevitable inaccuracy. This will account for the uncertainty with which I report the present numbers of the people. The following are the recorded births and deaths since the last census, though they cannot, from the defective registration and the physical impediments in its way, be entirely depended on as correct:—

Births . . .	1099
Deaths . . .	636

2. The disposition of the people is good; aggravated crime is rare; petty thefts and assaults are the principal infractions of the law. The enfranchised population is in a high degree grateful to the British Government, and by their contentment and their orderly conduct they vindicate both the policy and the justice of emancipation. Their disposition to labour improves, and is great considering their few wants in a climate and on a soil requiring so little artificial means to promote comfort and to create plenty. The influence of the clergy is apparent in the diminution of libertinism, and the greater frequency of marriages. A desire for the education of their children exists to a certain extent. The public schools (Mico) are fairly attended, but the parents' subscription, merely nominal though it be, is rarely paid; the teachers refraining from pressing for it in dread of the withdrawal of the pupil. In this respect, however, I am informed that some improvement is observable, and more is looked for.

3. The rise of a class of small proprietors and farmers is apparent among the emancipated population. This class of the negroes, the most industrious, has established settlements in many parts of the country hitherto covered with forests. These lots, whether bought or hired, are usually within reach of the neighbouring sugar establishments, permitting the negro to resort at crop time to the cane fields. Canes are grown in some of these settlements, the grower transporting them to the nearest mill, and receiving in return from the planter a portion of the sugar they produce, the latter retaining, in addition, the molasses and the drainage as the price of

the barrel supplied with the sugar. Though now in its infancy this system seems likely to spread as population augments, and as its intelligence, education, and wealth ameliorate; if so, it may eventually even more than now prove to the interest of the substantial planter to perfect to the utmost his machinery, and extend his manufacturing means; turning his attention chiefly to this process, which to planters of little capital is here so seldom remunerative, while these perhaps, in favourable localities, might in many cases profitably abandon the process of sugar making to the manufacturer of greater means, contenting themselves with the improved cultivation of their land, and selling its produce to the former. The bad sugar produced from insufficient machinery and defective manufacture is known not to pay the expenses of production and freight.

4. Drunkenness among the negroes appears till lately to have been on the increase. The abolition of the protective duty, and the consequent fall in the price of West India rum, produced in this respect the effect which might have been anticipated. The price of a gallon of rum, formerly a dollar, had fallen to two shillings, when again raised in 1845 by the imposition of a duty of sixpence. This formed the first check on a consumption till then appearing to have augmented in proportion inversely to the fall in the price of the spirit, and which in 1844 had attained the large annual amount of 109,000 gallons, in a total population of about 22,000 souls. The present duty of one shilling will doubtless still further check this excess, which, however, with the immoderate use of tobacco appears to demand some additional legislative restraint, or to be made yet more productive to the revenue. But to this end a more effectual system of collection must be adopted than that of the present rum duties, which being founded on the principle of returns verified on oath or declaration, and furnished by the manufacturer, is open to many objections and some abuse, the liability to which will obviously augment during the present year with the higher rate of duty. Every negro smokes, male or female, young or old, and, although no tobacco is grown here or in Martinique, many coarse segars are manufactured in both islands from American raw material. I can give no positive evidence as to the increase or decrease of rum-drinking. I cannot discover that a negro has ever yet in St. Lucia been fined or committed for simple drunkenness. The widely diffused population, and the peculiar nature of the country, forbid the possibility of accurately recording the progress of this vice, and the administrative condition of the island does not permit its notice and correction in the manner usual in the London Police Courts. The justices of the peace in St. Lucia, usually the planters dependant for the remunerative working of their estates on the goodwill of an insufficient and thriving population, are too much in the power of these to be expected generally to enforce on the negro a rigid discipline in any respect, save where their own immediate interest is concerned. With few exceptions, therefore, they detest the responsibilities, while they dread the inconveniences of this little coveted authority. In England sought for as an honourable distinction, the commission of the peace is commonly in St. Lucia as diligently avoided, and the Legislature has been forced to impose a fine of 50*l.* on persons declining so to act. I regret to add that the excessive use of spirits by the negro is not always discouraged by the planter. In crop time he is often drugged with rum to stimulate him to endure, with the greatest vigour and with the least intermission, the labours of the cane-field and the boiling-house. I would gladly see the industrious negro, who is the person on whom it falls the heaviest, freed from the impolitic tax on cultivated land, which the tenant pays wherever a written agreement exists, and the deficit compensated by a corresponding increase in the rum duties, so as to raise it to its former price. If well administered and efficiently superintended, I feel that no great increase of smuggling need be dreaded from the augmentation of these duties. Illicit distillation from the sugar cane is barely possible. The conspicuous cultivation—the bright green cane patch on the mountain side contrasting so visibly with the deeper verdure of the surrounding forest, the expensive apparatus and the great supply of water required, the difficulty and expense of carriage, and the small population, put this out of the question; but, above all, it does not pay to distil unless as a supplementary part of the process of sugar making, and not always then. The cultivated land-tax of St. Lucia is a direct tax upon industry, and delays the clearance of her densely wooded wilds; and being difficult of general collection, is productive of frauds, evasions, false swearing, and dissatisfaction among the more industrious and independent of the labouring class.

5. I have gratification in reporting an improvement in the morals and habits of the better classes. If on this subject I am to trust my own observation, contrasted with the generally received account of former West Indian life, intemperance and the public keeping of coloured females have much diminished since the emancipation. The coloured girls, formerly educated to concubinage, now commonly intermarry in their own class, and there have not been wanting instances of their legitimate union with men of European blood. This great but inevitable amelioration of public morals was ultimately to be looked for from the cessation of the former condition of society; but it is in no ordinary degree gratifying to note the rapid steps it has already made.

6. Relief to the poor is restricted to those unfitted by age, infirmity, disease, or infancy to support themselves, and who are without friends capable of assisting them. In each district a special justice and a justice of the peace sit monthly as a local Board on established days, to investigate the cases of those already on the poor list, of new claimants, and of intermediate recipients, who are to be seen either personally by one of these gentlemen once at least during the month, or their existence and condition as proper recipients established on undoubted evidence. The special justices draw on the treasurer for the funds necessary, and pay the paupers in their several districts, furnishing a detailed monthly return and pay-list for the information of the officer administering the government. In this return appear the name and

ST. LUCIA.

age of the pauper, the nature of infirmity, the date of first relief, the amount given daily (varying according to the nature of the infirmity), the signature of a witness to the payment, and the counter signatures of the magistrates; also a certificate of these gentlemen that the instructions of the Government have been obeyed, and that the paupers have been seen by them, or their existence and infirmity proved by evidence to continue. The difficult country and scattered population, and occasionally the aggravated nature of the infirmity, prevent a personal attendance in every case, and the two former causes impede the magistrate in his regular monthly inspection of distantly located paupers. These arrangements have been effective in checking abuses, and in turning the public charity into its proper channel. The number of recipients of out-door relief is at this moment 165, and the sum expended last year under this head was 755*l.* An hospital or asylum exists at Castries for the cure of diseased paupers, or the refuge of those utterly helpless. The number admitted here during the last two years has been 138, the ordinary average of resident patients 15, and the entire expense last year was 333*l.*, including house-rent, the matron's salary, and all other expenses. A building is now in course of completion to supersede the present insufficient and unwholesome premises. A school-house begun many years ago, but never completed or likely to be completed, and which for some time past has been an eye-sore in a very public situation, and was falling rapidly to ruin, has been restored for this purpose, for which it is well adapted, and the balance of the slave compensation fund has been appropriated to this expenditure by the sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

7. Some spontaneous immigration has taken place from other West Indian islands during the past year. The ample wages, the plenty and cheapness of ground, provisions, and the great demand for labour have fully satisfied these people, some of whom have since induced their friends to join them. The non-official portion of the Council has been hitherto divided as to the expediency of assisting immigration at the public expense. While this division lasted it was not for the local executive to take the matter up. These gentlemen seeming now, however, to have agreed as to the measure, it is probable that some proposition with this view may be made in Council in the course of the present year. Averse to the expensive machinery of agencies and transports, I am inclined to leave the matter, as at present, to private enterprise and capital; proposing, however, to give a moderate bonus to every importer of an able-bodied immigrant, the expense to be met by an augmented duty on exports. To prevent jobbing and fraud on the part of masters, of the small traders, and others, such bonus should be only payable in the event of the immigrant, who must be registered on landing, remaining six months in the island. This would probably work well, and the increase in the revenue arising out of augmented consumption and produce would balance, and perhaps soon exceed, the outlay. There appears indeed hardly a limit to the productiveness of this singularly fertile island, had she labour and capital in proportion to her physical resources.

II.—1. St. Lucia is 40 miles in length, 20 at her greatest breadth, and 150 miles in circumference. In size and fertility, exceeding all her immediate neighbours, she is, with the exception of Guadaloupe and of Trinidad, the largest island of this group.* Her towns are three in number—Castries (population, 4000), Soufrière (1700), and Vieuxfort (600). She has eight villages, viz., Gros Islet, Anse la Raie, Canaries, Choiseul, Laborie, Canelle, Micoud, and Dennery. With the exception of the plains of Gros Islet and Vieuxfort, at her northern and southern extremities, the island is extremely and fantastically mountainous, and, save in her productive plains and vallies, and the richly cultivated heights of Soufrière, is covered from the seaboard to the mountain-top by masses of dense and gloomy forest.

2. The soil on these mountain-steeps is nearly universally, and in a high degree, capable of cultivation. Such is the extraordinary richness of the alluvial valleys, that the sugar-cane, which in drier and lighter soils must be annually planted, or is elsewhere seldom capable of being ratooned at furthest beyond the second crop, has here in certain spots successively undergone this yearly process without replanting, save here and there a failing cane, for upwards of 30 years. The productive duration of the cane-plant, in the ordinary soils of the island, averages at six years without replanting.

3. The cultivation improves from year to year. In good hands, and with sufficient capital, it appears to realize to the planter an ample return. In few islands, perhaps, has the experiment of free labour been more successful, in spite of an insufficient population, a lack of capital, much waste land, and plentiful and cheap food. The following return of sugar exported in the last 15 years shows latterly a steady average, and one scarcely lower than that previous to emancipation:—

Before the Abolition of Slavery.		*Since the Abolition of Slavery.*	
	lbs.		lbs.
1831	7,671,723	1838	5,533,330
1832	5,154,982	1839	5,151,108
1833	4,890,040	1840	3,683,820
1834	7,208,678	1841	4,677,350
1835	5,553,585	1842	6,384,365
1836	3,732,600	1843	5,065,195
1837	4,687,200	1844	6,469,012
		1845	6,779,225
Average	5,556,972	Average	5,467,925

* Breen. This gentleman's descriptive and historical work on St. Lucia presents a true and lively picture of her social peculiarities; and I have found it of much value as a work of reference in conducting the administration of the local government.

The latter average would doubtless have been higher, had it not been for the constant succession of dry seasons, which have for the last eight years been so regular as to constitute an entire change in the climate and seasons,—formerly, during nine months in the year, subject to continual rains, which were eminently favourable to the growth of the sugar-cane.

4. I regret to state that the export of coffee and of cocoa, once considerable, shows a great diminution. A blight or deterioration of the coffee-plant completed what the fall in the price of West India produce had already commenced, and these picturesque plantations do not now repay cultivation: they have, in fact, been universally abandoned to the negroes, who weed and pick in the proper seasons, receiving as their remuneration, instead of wages, a portion of the produce; but the former operation is insufficiently performed, and the planter's share of the picking, as he cannot afford supervision, is usually small. It is not worth while to replace failing plants; hence, widely extending over the most romantic scenery, formerly clothed with fragrant coffee-shrubs, protected by hedge-rows of the no less odoriferous *poix doux*, is now to be observed a sad and gradual decay,—the untrimmed hedges rising into forest-trees, and the neglected coffee pining away, unwillingly giving place to the wild plantain and the guava.

5. Improvements in machinery for the manufacture of sugar have been introduced by several of the most successful planters, and did the population promise a more rapid increase than mere propagation can afford, these would doubtless be more universally adopted. I believe that St. Lucia may lay claim to being the first West Indian island in which the rail or tram-road has been used for the cultivation and manufacture of the sugar-cane; having been successfully introduced two years ago. This seems a safe and productive investment, and well adapted to the more extensive plains and vallies, where the depth and moisture of the soil render transport so difficult and so expensive.

6. St. Lucia presents a remarkable variety of climate. In certain localities, and at certain elevations—the heights of Soufrière for instance, adjoining an extensive and remarkable sulphur crater in a state of incessant eruption, and in other parts of the island—the climate is cool, healthy, and in an eminent degree favourable to the European constitution; but in the marshy vallies, insalubrious in proportion to their extreme fertility, it is deadly—the very negro of the island, unless a native of such localities, suffering equally with the European. With these exceptions, and in spite of the wide-spread prejudice as to the unhealthiness of St. Lucia, there seems reason to believe that she does not at present deserve to be ranked lower in the scale of salubrity than her neighbours, and as far as my own experience goes, I give her the preference in this respect over other islands where I have served. The mortality among the troops and fleets during the arduous naval and military operations of which St. Lucia has been the frequent scene—mortalities which doubtless laid the foundation of her unenviable notoriety—may be accounted for without prejudice to the correctness of the above remark. The exposures of war service must in this climate be ever fatal to the European constitution; and it is recorded that such in St. Lucia had been the violent nature of the insurrectionary struggle during the French Revolution, that half the inhabitants had been massacred, and cultivation utterly abandoned. The forest and the swamp, therefore, untouched by human hand or implement, resuming their noxious sway, had again collected and diffused their poisonous miasma. The face of the country appears long to have retained this desolate aspect, and hardly to have begun to improve till after the restoration of order and the permanent settlement of the island under the British domination in 1803. From such a state of things the recovery must have been gradual. Desolation and massacre, the madness of a moment, it has needed the slow and laborious operation of half a century to restore; and I believe I am correct in stating that population and agriculture have only now, if even yet they have, attained their former state, when blasted by the first shock of the revolutionary tempest. The best authorities inform me that the island has greatly improved in salubrity within the recollection of man; and to this result the clearance of forests and drying of marshes, consequent on the numerous settlements of the enfranchised negroes, and perhaps the change of climate already noticed, have latterly, doubtless, in no small degree contributed. In the garrisons of Morne Fortuné and Pigeon Island, on an average total strength of 277, the daily average number in hospital for the last two years has been but $15\frac{1}{2}$ (or $5\frac{165}{277}$ per cent.), and the total number of deaths within the same time, 12;* a rate of sickness and mortality below what I have often seen in the guards' hospitals in London. A former fertile cause of miasma and fever to the troops in garrison, and the crews in harbour, was the state of the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Castries, situate at the bottom of the harbour, and to windward of the shipping. With commercial views the founders of Castries established their capital on this spot, amidst a poisonous mangrove marsh, which formerly extended widely over what is now the town and its immediate vicinity, but has since been progressively contracted in limits by the gradual advance of streets and buildings; the Government having wisely granted the sites in water lots on condition of filling up and wharfing. Time, perse-

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* The causes of death in these cases were as under, viz.—

Consumption	5
Dysentery	3
Fever	1
Apoplexy	1
Bite of a serpent	1
Delirium tremens	1
Total	12

ST. LUCIA.

verance, and industry, have now nearly obliterated this once fatal swamp; but the struggle for the mastery between man and nature, the town and the marsh, the human constitution and miasma, the weapon of its deadly though receding foe, was productive of many fatal epidemics investing St. Lucia generally with a character which clings to her yet, though with doubtful justice. One only swamp remains to windward of the town, and I shall feel heartfelt exultation if successful in my endeavours to drain it in the course of my administration.

This, and the projected introduction of a plentiful supply of water into Castries, must surely banish future febrile visits, save those to which in an epidemic from all these latitudes are from time to time and from unknown atmospheric causes liable, and which have committed occasionally ravages in the so called healthiest islands. Castries may then welcome the new comer and the settler without the secret ominous dread with which such welcomes have been hitherto accompanied; for no immediate local cause of fever will then remain.

7. Since emancipation some new villages and hamlets have arisen or are gradually forming, and others nearly abandoned from ruin and pillage during the revolution, are again recovering their former condition. In most of these churches have been either built or enlarged at the sole expense of the enfranchised negroes; and whereas during the existence of slavery there was but one priest in the island, there are now nine parish churches,* and as many curés. The influence of these priests is great, and with very few exceptions is beneficial in its effects on the conduct and disposition of the negroes.

8. The roads are kept in repair by means of the antiquated corvée system peculiar to all France; each able-bodied male person being liable to sixty hours labour annually, or to pay a pecuniary compensation. This system has many inconveniencies, but such is the immense extent of road as compared with the numbers of the taxable portion of the community, that I doubt whether with certain modifications to meet the altered condition of society it is not better adapted to the present state of the country and population than a money rate. The repairs are presided over by unsalaried Commissioners, and are effective or insufficient in proportion to the zeal of the latter. The want of paid superintendance is the great evil of the system.

9. I accompany this report by a topographical map of the island, prepared by the Surveyor-General, from a recent and actual survey undertaken under my direction.† I forward it herewith, because I know that no other correct delineation of St. Lucia, in her present condition, is in existence. No general survey, save the present, has been attempted here since that of 1777, when the island was under the French rule. The latter survey is not in possession of the local Government, nor, it is presumed, of the Colonial office.

III. 1. The educational wants of the people are as yet imperfectly supplied. Branches of the Mico schools exist at Castries, Gros-islet, Soufrière, Privière, Doreé, Laborie, Vieux-fort, and Trumassé. The cost of these exceeds in the aggregate 1000*l.*, of which expenditure the colony bears about one half. Under considerable disadvantages from the universal use of the barbarous negro French, and from the prevalence and occasional jealousy of Roman Catholic influence, I have pleasure in bearing testimony to the great value of these schools for the diffusion of scriptural knowledge, intelligence, and an acquaintance with the English tongue; and it is my opinion that they have laid a foundation whereon, should the Council be inclined to assist in the good work, a more extensive system may be hereafter raised. The zeal of Mr. Miller, the local superintendant, is beyond praise; and it is with real satisfaction that I report on the abilities and high-minded sense of duty which, with very few exceptions, I have observed among the teachers. The total number attending the Mico schools, by the last returns, was 421; but it is augmenting obviously. The establishment of infant schools is now under consideration, but has not yet been attempted. The Roman Catholic priests have, from time to time, entertained a jealousy of the Mico schools. Unacquainted generally with the English tongue, and unable, therefore, to judge personally of the nature of the tuition, it was natural that they should apprehend proselytism in schools conducted by Protestants, and whereof the instruction is scriptural. I have taken much pains, however, to explain to these reverend gentlemen that such attempts are forbidden; and as the knowledge of the English tongue is spreading among them, and they are daily witnesses of the good effects of the schools, their apprehensions appear to subside; and where they do not assist, the priests generally remain neutral. Some praiseworthy efforts are made by these reverend gentlemen in their own sphere towards the advancement of education.

2. In addition to the above, private schools exist in the following places, generally conducted in the French language, viz.:—

Castries, three schools, total scholars	131
Gros-islet, one school, total scholars	7
Soufrière, three schools, total scholars	40
Choiseul, one school, total scholars	35
Total . . .	213

Some of these are on a limited scale, but their existence and increasing number argue a growing sense of the necessity of education.

* In the following places, viz., Castries, Gros Islet, Anse-la-Raie, Soufrière, Choiseul, Laborie, Vieuxfort, Micaud, and Dennery.

† It has been found impracticable to complete this work in sufficient time to accompany this Report. It will, however, be forwarded with the least possible delay.

3. The want of an establishment for the education of boys for the higher pursuits of life is much felt. Most of the creoles of French origin desire to give an English education to their boys, for without a knowledge of an English language, and a notion of English laws, commerce and literature, they feel that in an English colony they can look for little employment, whether under government, commercial, or otherwise. But education in England is inaccessible to them from its great expense, and their want of connexions in London. Martinique, then, and Paris, are the principal resorts of the St. Lucian youth for educational purposes; an unfavourable preparative for those who are to live in an English colony. The difficulty arising out of the difference of religion will never here be overcome in a public establishment for classical and commercial education, unless instituted on the principle of the projected Irish colleges. The number of Protestant children in St. Lucia, as compared with the Roman Catholic, is probably as 1 to 40; and as a Protestant institution would thus exclude the great mass of the population, it ought not to be exclusively attempted as a Government measure. I make these remarks because this attempt was unsuccessfully made in Castries some time back under the superintendance of clergymen of the church of England; and because I fear its second failure, if again undertaken on a similar principle.

4. I have already alluded to the improved facilities for religious instructions afforded to the Roman Catholic population by the augmented number of curés, and the increase and enlargement of churches. Since the year 1844 the Roman Catholic curés, as well as the Protestant clergy, have been salaried by the Colonial Government. The result of this arrangement has been obviously beneficial. There are usually two Protestant clergymen in St. Lucia, at Castries, and at Soufrière; but since the resignation of the former on the 22nd October last up to the present date, I regret to state that the spiritual wants of the parish and of the garrison have been unprovided for save by the fortnightly Sunday visits of the clergyman from Soufrière, a work of fatigue, exposure, and expense to that gentleman.*

Such is the insalubrious reputation of St. Lucia that his Lordship the Bishop of Barbados, whose anxiety for the spiritual welfare of his diocese is well known, is understood to experience difficulty in prevailing on reverend gentlemen to undertake these duties. In the mean time, however, the Established Church, which never held a strong hold on the affections even of the Protestant congregation of Castries, mostly Scotch Presbyterians, finds her already feeble grasp relaxing, where, from the prevalence of Roman Catholicism, she should be nerved the strongest. In the absence of church-rates, and from the adverse materials composing her congregation, among whom it would not be easy to determine whether a spirit of indifference or dissent most strongly prevails, and from other causes, difficulty has been experienced in contriving that the commonest wants of the church and parish be provided for. It would be gratifying indeed could the venerated church of England be placed in St. Lucia on her proper footing; but to this end Protestants must unite, and their clergy must powerfully assist; neither of which events appears, on retrospection, probable.

5. An interesting congregation of Protestants exists at Rivière Dorée, an estate the property of the Alexander family, of Scotch extraction, and at present in the hands of three sisters of that name. These talented and religious ladies devote themselves entirely to the instruction of the inhabitants of the estate, who, formerly the slaves on the property, with few exceptions, since emancipation have never quitted the locality; and having been instructed by the family in the Protestant faith, form a small but increasing congregation of 182 souls. The Mico school here is fully attended, being ably assisted by the personal care and superintendence of these benevolent ladies; and the entire little community shows a happy picture of philanthropy, prosperity, and improvement. Sufficient funds alone are wanting for a church and a clergyman's house, which are both in contemplation, and I hope the colony will not be backward, when, by the assistance of British benevolence, these shall have been provided, in supplying a suitable endowment.

6. A remarkable feature in this society is the absence of sectarianism. No dissenting minister or sectary has ever had footing here. In this respect, perhaps, St. Lucia is a singular instance among the British West Indian possessions. This may partly account for the quiescent conduct of the people. To all outward appearance the community is divided between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic faith.

IV. In a comprehensive report on the island, it is my duty not to omit to touch on a subject so important as her administrative condition. By the instructions issued for the guidance of Her Majesty's colonial service, the officer administering the government of a Crown colony must initiate all measures proposed for discussion in council. This regulation forces on him the alternatives of responsibility or of inaction, the latter being equivalent to the cessation of advancement to the community confided to his charge. The condition of St. Lucia differs so entirely from that of most other English colonies, that it is essential to be on the spot to appreciate her peculiarities, and the opportunities or impediments which may exist with reference to her gradual amelioration. No executive government can be more entirely than this, destitute of the ordinary administrative means at the disposal of those of better organised communities. Up to a late date, few public offices have books or records to show; there is no printed collection of laws, and till recently no map of the island, or correct survey of her roads and divisions have been undertaken; there are no municipal institutions, and no salaried road inspectors; and the imperfect administration of the justices of the peace has been already touched upon. The officer

* A Protestant clergyman has since arrived to take the spiritual charge of the parish of Castries, viz., on the 16th January.

ST. LUCIA.

administering the government is the sole local referee in every matter connected with the minutest administrative detail. The extent and nature of the country, the thin and scattered population, the difficult communications, and the few resident and independent proprietors, the adverse religions, the difference of language, race, and feeling, the insufficient remuneration to public officers,—these are no ordinary obstacles to the head of a government so inefficiently organized, himself so inadequately invested with authority. Yet he must proceed actively in matters, whether legislative or administrative, wherein lieutenant-governors of other colonies have but to watch and judge of the debates or the acts of others. Here the lieutenant-governor is the government. With these additional responsibilities to bear, and these additional difficulties to surmount, I hope your Excellency will permit me respectfully to urge that the officer administering the government of St. Lucia, if he is to do more good, should possess greater powers, or be permitted a freer action of those with which the royal instructions already invest him.

V. The annual expenditure of St. Lucia exceeds 13,000*l.* I have pride in reporting that the colony was never in a more satisfactory financial condition. Though so lately as in 1843 incapable of meeting the public expenditure, the treasury of St. Lucia exhibited, at the termination of 1845, a surplus balance of 3000*l.*, and the colony is free from debt. There are various modes in which a surplus fund can be wisely expended in local improvements, to the vast advantage of the community, and its advancement in prosperity and salubrity, and I hope that the legislative council, appreciating the value of these results, will abandon the idea as a general principle of including such surplus balances in the ways and means for succeeding years, with the sole view of alleviating rates and duties now by no means excessive, and indeed below the ordinary burthens of their neighbours. As her revenue augments, St. Lucia should revise her civil list, and consider what chance she has of raising the efficiency of her public officers to the highest point, while she remunerates them according to the lowest scale. 99*l.* has been in this island the average annual salary of 11 important officers, requiring the services of persons of trust and education.* The present financial prosperity of St. Lucia offers a favourable opportunity of referring to the Despatch of Lord Aberdeen to Sir Dudley Hill, March 16, 1835, wherein the reductions directed to be made in the emoluments of various public appointments in the island are distinctly attributed to the then embarrassed condition of her finances, and were not apparently intended for permanent endurance under more favourable circumstances. The revenue of the year 1835 was 8,148*l.*, and the public debt upwards of 10,000*l.* The revenue of the past year was 16,429*l.*, and no debt exists.

VI. On the subject of the laws of St. Lucia, I beg to subjoin the accompanying able minute by Chief Justice Reddie.

VII.—No militia law now exists. That formerly in existence, and which appears to have been well adapted to the former condition of society, was repealed by ordinance of 16th February, 1839, according to instructions from the Colonial Office. I think that the institution might be revived without absolutely running counter to the general feelings of the population, and without creating disturbances, and if judiciously organized, without raising jealousies as to race or colour. I entertain no doubt of the important assistance which in case of foreign invasion would be rendered to the regular troops by a force of this description; but I would very unwillingly resort to such aid in instances of internal dissensions. I have not been able, on consideration, to suggest a means of establishing, with any hope of success, the money qualifications desired by Her Majesty's Government. In the towns and villages, indeed, the existence of the house tax causes a property qualification to be of easy attainment, but I am at a loss as to its institution in the rural districts. A qualification founded on the land-tax would be objectionable as excluding the great mass of the enfranchised population, on the more industrious of whom alone the impost falls, and it is further liable to abolition. A qualification on the amount of rent paid, or on freehold property held, would work unequally, and probably fail in its object, because many proprietors refuse to let or sell their land to the negroes, and this acts as a prohibition in all cases where the latter, as is often the case, are attached to the locality, and will not go elsewhere to hire or buy. Thus, supposing the bearing arms in the ranks of the militia be considered a privilege, a qualification on rent or freehold would act unfairly on those who could not obtain land on either condition; and if a burthen, then on the comparative few thus qualified. Again, if a privilege, the desire to obtain a land qualification might, by unnaturally encouraging the acquisition of petty proprietaries, impede the cultivation of the staples. I cannot, however, anticipate that militia service will bear the same character of privilege now as formerly, when its uniform was the peculiar badge of freedom. Although this population in general will not entertain an absolutely adverse feeling against the service, I apprehend that with few exceptions they will be found to be fully alive to the inconveniences of parades and drills. I have considered the possibility of creating the feeling of privilege in militia men by the surest means—that of establishing some exemption in their favour in the payment of dues and taxes, but I have not been able to persuade myself of the policy, or even feasibility of such a measure. An exemption from the corvée or statute road labour would withdraw from 1000 to 1500 able-bodied instruments from a system already not too efficient, and a similar exemption from a money rate for such purposes, were such a tax hereafter imposed, would equally limit its productiveness and impede its efficiency. The following project, therefore, has already been submitted by me for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government:—1. Declare all

* These are the private secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, the chief clerk Government Office, assistant clerk Government Office, chief clerk Treasury, two assistants, inspector of invoices, harbour-master, interpreter, post-master, surveyor-general. To none of the above offices are any fees or other emoluments of whatever description attached, except an allowance to the harbour-master for his boat and crew, and another to the surveyor-general for aiding in the collection of the land-tax.

male persons, not physically or otherwise disqualified, between the ages of 18 and 50, liable to serve, with the necessary exemptions. 2. Raise 1500 men by ballot to be allotted in proportion to the known population of each district, as established in the old militia ordinance. 3. The service to be for four years. 4. On the expiration of the first year, one-fourth of the number supplied by each district, to go out by ballot, and an equal number of new persons, or a greater number when necessary to supply casualties, to be ballotted for, to supply their places; the same process to continue annually, no person being liable to be again ballotted for within four years, after completing a previous service. 5. The necessity for a ballot for going out of service, will of course cease after the expiration of the first three years. This plan will give trouble to the militia officers, and to the executive government, and may prove expensive; but no other means have occurred to me in the absence of a property qualification, to make the onus equal to all persons, and to obtain an efficient force. It will be most essential that the arms and accoutrements be deposited at the head quarters of the companies. They may be kept at the police stations, and the expense of cleaning may be borne by the militia fines. The arms and accoutrements of the old militia, are entirely unfit for service, and as that force was discontinued by order from Her Majesty, I conclude Her Majesty's Government will not desire to throw on this Colony the heavy expense of a new supply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR W. TORRENS, Lieut.-Colonel, 23rd,
Administering the Government.

Minute for his Excellency Colonel Arthur Wellesley Torrens, Lieutenant-Governor of Saint Lucia, on the present State of the Law and Judicature of Saint Lucia.

LAWS.

The laws relating to real property, inheritance, minors, are the old laws of France, anterior to the introduction of the "Code Napoleon."

They consist chiefly of the "Coutume de Paris" rédigée par l'Ordonnance des Rois de France.

The Royal Ordonnances of 1580, 1667, and 1669, 1670, 1673, and some others of minor import, subsequently promulgated, with the arrêts and jurisprudence of the courts, as to be found in the large collections of Merlin, Ferriere, and other commentators, and also many ordonnances and local regulations both of the kings of France, their ministers, and the "Conseil Souverain," contained in the "Code de la Martinique," published in 1807.

To these are added the Royal Orders in Council, and Orders in the local Council of Government, and Orders of the local Legislative Council, which have been issued since the island was taken by assault, in June, 1803, and subsequently ceded to the British Crown, by the Treaty of Paris, in 1815.

The maritime and commercial law of England, in so far as possibly applicable, has been nominally in force since 1803, and really since 1827.

Any ecclesiastical laws which can now be considered in force, are those regulating the Roman Catholic Church, and its discipline; no provision has yet been made (as in other colonies), to introduce that part of the ecclesiastical law of England, which appears to be necessary to extend and enforce the authority of the bishop of the Church of England, in this portion of his diocese.

The Church of England is by the existing law on no other footing than that of any dissenting sect, or denomination, that might join together to form a congregation. An attempt was made in an Ordinance, introduced by myself, and passed by the Legislative Council, in 1838, to place "the Church" on a proper basis, with regard to financial support; but since the first year that Ordinance does not appear to have been acted upon, in as much as the assessment was laid on "apprentices," as the basis of property and criterion of wealth in the island. The parishes are those marked out for the Roman Catholic Church, whose parochial and vestry meetings, and mode of levying assessments for church purposes, are all regulated by law, so that to all outward appearance, the Roman Catholic is the dominant Church of the colony.

The criminal law, regulating the punishment of crimes and offences, takes its date, with slight modification, from the time of Louis XIV. The French criminal code was wisely abolished in Lower Canada, under the Royal Proclamation of 1763, confirmed by the Quebec Bill of 1774; and I humbly submit that it might well and wisely be replaced here (under certain modifications) by the criminal law of England, as embodied in the recent digest of Her Majesty's Commissioners on criminal law, presented to Parliament in 1844.

True it is that in practice, in awarding punishments, the judges of St. Lucia do not exceed the severity* of the British law, statutory or common, but now that the English form of procedure, as regards indictments, information, evidence in criminal cases, &c., has been introduced, great technical difficulties frequently present themselves from the want of precision in the definition and classification of crime, and on account of the punishment under the old French law, being made to depend too frequently on the quality and station in life of the offender. The assessors, mostly of French origin, continue to attach great importance to this distinction.

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* His Excellency has caused a draft of an Ordinance to be prepared to be laid before the Legislative Council, to introduce the Criminal Law of England in so far as it can be applicable in this colony.

ST LUCIA.

The law of criminal procedure, is as nearly as possible that of England; and the new digest of criminal procedure, presented 5th July, to both Houses of Parliament, by Her Majesty's command, will serve as a basis for future improvements, as soon as it shall have been recognized as law by Parliament.

COURTS.

The constitution of the principal courts for the enforcement of those laws, is regulated by the Royal Order in Council of 20th June, 1831, which also regulates the Crown Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad.

The Royal or Supreme Court, when in the exercise of its civil jurisdiction, is composed of three judges. The chief justice (a member of the bar of England, Scotland, or Ireland), and (at present) of two unsalaried puisne judges. The Court has been thus composed since the reduction in 1835 of the salaries of the two professional puisne judges, who originally held office; a reduction which took place on account of the then existing financial embarrassments of the Colonial Exchequer.

This Court is always in session the whole year round, with the exception of a short vacation at Christmas, and exercises a jurisdiction in which common law and equity are blended, as in Scotland, and throughout the continent of Europe. Courts are held regularly weekly or fortnightly, as the pressure of business occurs, and there are at present no arrears before it, and with one exception, no cause of older standing than three months, on its rolls.

From the decision of this Court, an appeal lies to Her Majesty in Council, in all cases above 500*l.* sterling, as a matter of right; and an appeal is always allowed by the judicial committee of the Privy Council on anything like cause shown; or a *prima facie* case being made out.

The Royal Criminal Court is composed of the three judges of the Royal Supreme Court, conjoined with three assessors (or jurymen) chosen by ballot from the same classes as jurymen in England, and like jurymen, subject to challenge by the Crown or prisoner.

This Court holds its sessions three times annually, and oftener when required by proclamation. The judges vote with the assessors, 1st, as to the guilt or innocence of the accused; 2dly, as to the nature and degree of punishment to be awarded under its sentence. The votes of judges and assessors are of co-ordinate validity in both these respects, but the judges are alone empowered to decide all questions and points of law, strictly so called.

This system has on the whole worked well and satisfactorily to the public during the last 15 years; at the same time, as was naturally to be expected, there has been on the part of some of the colonists, of English descent, a desire exhibited for trial by jury; and various propositions have been made to the Legislative Council on this subject, by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, during the last three years. There is, I apprehend, no Governor (and I will presume to say, no Chief Justice) who would not eagerly have stepped forward to associate his administration or his name with the introduction of this noble institution into this British Colony, had such a measure been advisable or practicable. But the difficulties presented by difference of language, and race, and colour; the prevalence of patois; the paucity of the classes fitted to be jurymen amongst the motley population; the absence of the British standard of truthfulness, real independence, and manly feeling and honour, have given but too great ground for hesitation on this subject: and it is not to be doubted that the labouring and ignorant class (the main body of the people) will have greater justice done them, and are more certain of protection under the present system than they could be, or expect to be, with any jury, altogether drawn from the peculiar class from which jurymen would necessarily fall to be selected. For the great body of this population cannot be tried by their "peers," and the only question is whether they shall be tried by a class more or less educated and independent. Some other local objections, connected with finance, payment of jurors, the increased number to be summoned in a community so limited as this, also require consideration. At the same time it is to be hoped that, with increased intelligence, arising from education and the spread of British feelings, and truthfulness, and integrity, with the English language, that the day is not far distant when the English system of trial by jury, (and it would, I believe, be vain to try any modification of it,) may be introduced into St. Lucia, so as to be something more than a mere form or useless name, or an engine of party wrested to the worst of puposes, but with all the spirit and high integrity, and stern independence, which characterize and distinguish the British institution; and have stamped it, as it were, as the best adapted for the investigation of truth, for the establishing of truth, and for the distributing of equal justice.

The political bias, the factious leanings, the subserviency, the weakness, or the corruption of any number of judges may easily be repressed, punished, or got rid of, but the same disqualifications, inherent in jurymen, are beyond the control or censure of any executive government.

The Vice-Admiralty Court of the Colony is seldom required to sit. In money matters, the Supreme Civil Court holds concurrent jurisdiction, and being much less costly, is generally resorted to by suitors.

Two other Courts of inferior jurisdiction exist: 1st, of inferior civil, and 2dly of inferior criminal jurisdiction. The first, often styled the Court of Petty Debts, sits once a week or once a fortnight throughout the year, and takes cognizance of all cases above 3*l.* 4*s.* sterling, and not exceeding 20*l.* sterling. The judge of this Court was formerly the salaried professional first puisne judge of the Royal Supreme Court, but when I found that lay unsalaried puisne judges were appointed under Lord Aberdeen's Despatch of 16th March, 1835, rather than throw the duty on one of these non-professional gentlemen, I did not, under the peculiar circumstances and financial embarrassments of the Colony, consider it beneath the duty or dignity of the Chief

Justice to take the bench of the Petty Debt Court, and accordingly, for the last 10 years, I have uniformly undertaken all the duties of that Court.

The second Court of inferior criminal jurisdiction, commonly styled the "Court of the Judge of Police," has cognizance of all criminal offences and breaches of the peace, which are not of a sufficiently grave nature to be brought before the Supreme Criminal Court, or of so very trivial a nature as to be disposed of before a justice of the peace.

The power of punishment in this Court is limited, by the Royal Order in Council of 1831, to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding three months, a fine not exceeding 20*l.* sterling, and whipping not exceeding 39 stripes. This last punishment is, however, rarely resorted to. This Court also sits throughout the year, every week or fortnight, so as to have no arrears, and there is generally a good deal of business before it; as the local magistracy (and of course in this I do not include the special stipendiary justices), have neither jurisdiction, nor are competent to dispose of cases, similar to those disposed of before justices of the peace in England.

The duty of being the judge in this Court also has devolved on the Chief Justice. Whether my successor may be disposed to undertake these duties, or have health and bodily strength to discharge them, in a regular manner, is a question which may well be submitted for the future consideration of Her Majesty's Government with reference to any future arrangements.

The special stipendiary magistrates next fall to be noticed. They are five in number, and are of incalculable service in the peculiar circumstances of this Colony, where from the difference of language, deficiency of education and energy among many of the planters, and the general poverty of all, (no man having time to attend to public affairs,) Government has hardly any means at its disposal for carrying on its administrative duties out of the town of Castries.

These special stipendiary magistrates accordingly, without any salary from the Colony, act as road and bridge commissioners, coroners, inspectors of gaols, town wardens, &c.; and have been so appointed, solely because they were almost the only persons who could be selected by Government to undertake these duties and offices, and discharge them effectively.

It is needless for me here to recapitulate the different Orders in Council so lately promulgated, under which they exercise their special jurisdiction between employer and employed, but I may add that, as the principal part of the local unpaid justices of the peace take no interest in the preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, summons, arrest, examination before magistrate, commitment, bail, &c., and are seldom sufficiently qualified to act with safety to themselves, that the chief portion of this part of the criminal business now falls on these magistrates, in addition to their special and peculiar jurisdiction.

Courts of appeal from the awards of any single justice of the peace are held monthly before two stipendiary magistrates, and one unpaid justice of the peace, and from their decision, an appeal again lies to the superior Court of appeal, which sits four times a year, composed of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and his executive Council, who dispose of the matters before them, in an unexpensive and summary manner. This arrangement, I believe, gives very general satisfaction.

Some conflict of jurisdiction might easily arise between this branch of judicature and the Royal Supreme Court, from the nature of the constitution of both; but on this subject there is nothing to apprehend, so long at least as the sound judgment which characterizes his Excellency Colonel Torrens, is at the head of the local Government.

Justices of the peace (who have replaced the ancient commissary commandants) have cognizance of petty misdemeanours, petty assaults, and slight breaches of the peace; and their powers of punishment are limited to 14 days' imprisonment (with or without hard labour), and a fine not exceeding 3*l.* 4*s.*

The justices of the peace have also cognizance of all small debts not exceeding a doubloon, (3*l.* 4*s.*) except in matters specially reserved to the Royal Supreme Court, by the Order in Council of June, 1831.

One practical improvement I will venture to suggest with reference to the civil jurisdiction of the justices of the peace, which, however apparently trivial in itself, will have a wide circuit of operation, and be, I am persuaded, of much social importance and expediency. The 5th section of the Ordinance of 23rd October, 1834, abolishing the office of commissary commandant, and in lieu thereof, establishing the office of justice of the peace, &c. &c., empowers a justice of the peace to imprison, in satisfaction of all cases of civil debt, within his jurisdiction, a power which even does not belong to the Supreme Royal Court. It is there provided, "that if a return be made to the satisfaction of the justice or justices, that no goods and chattels, whereon to make sufficient levy, can be found, the said justice or justices of the peace may, by warrant under his or their hand and seal, authorize the arrest of the defendent, and direct him to be carried to the nearest gaol, there to be detained at the rate of one entire day's incarceration for every sum of five livres and under, of the amount awarded by the judgment, and no longer; Provided always, that such imprisonment shall not be held to extinguish the debt, but the said debt may be recovered at any future period, should any goods or chattels whereon to levy be found; and provided also, that no person shall be liable to be imprisoned a second time for the same debt."

Now, the system of giving small credits to the labouring class of the population, hitherto pursued by pedlars, hawkers, and small shopkeepers, has been productive of the worst consequences, rendering the labouring population unsteady and fugitive, often changing their place of residence; and has led to many inevitable breaches of contract between the labourer and his employer. I would therefore propose that the power of imprisonment for any debt, arising from contract of any description, should be withdrawn from all justices of the peace, except in

ST. LUCIA.

so far as regards the lease of land and house rent; in which cases a certain credit must of necessity be given.

On the subject of the civil laws, governing the domestic relations of the colonists, who are principally of French extraction, I have no suggestion to offer; it will not be politic, and it is not necessary, to change these laws, regulating the descent and transmission of property and its distribution by will, "assemblées de famille," marriage settlements, &c. &c., to do so would lead to the greatest confusion and to much uncertainty and hardship, in as much as the English law on these subjects were it introduced by ordinance to-morrow, would be altogether unknown to the legal profession, with the exception of the Attorney General. Nor is there any counterbalancing expediency for the change; the law in these matters does not differ more widely from the law of England than does the law of Scotland (to which the existing system of St. Lucia has great affinity) at this day. So long, therefore, as the immense majority continue to be of French extraction, and entertain strong feelings and even prejudices in favour of the existing system, it may not be expedient to make any change in this branch of civil jurisprudence.

The laws and procedure for regulating the recovery of debts are less expensive and more expeditious than in any other Colony. The mortgage system and the registration of mortgages, and of all deeds to affect third parties or their rights, afford ample security for the investment of capital; and the prompt process of judicial sale, and marshalment of the assets combine all the security of the English law of mortgage, with all the additional advantage of summary execution, levy and sale, in place of foreclosure.

The writ, *ne exeat insulâ*, has by the simple measure of surety and bail, relieved this island from the numerous announcements of departure and troublesome formalities, which are turned to oppressive purposes in the neighbouring possessions.

The law regulating bankruptcy is that of the Ordinance, 1673, Tit. XI., and is, of course, much behind the requirement of the present age; but the cases of bankruptcy are very rare amongst that class where creditors would find it worth their while to adopt proceedings. For the last 10 years there has only been one case of a class superior to that of small shopkeeper or hawker; while the "Cession de Biens" (*Cessio Bonorum*) or Insolvent Debtors' Act, with some very slight modifications, is more suited to the circumstances of St. Lucia, than the costly system and apparatus of a more commercial and refined people, involved in all the complications which modern speculation gives rise to. Both branches, however, are susceptible of material improvement.

A change may also be effected beneficially in the law regulating "*saisies arrêts*," or attachments of pecuniary funds due, or to become due, by a creditor in the hands of third parties. This is similar to the process of attachment "by custom of the City of London." A similar "custom" prevails likewise in Dublin. In Scotland also, under certain well defined limits, the mode of attaching moveable property obtains; and I would recommend that the same modifications which exist in the law of Scotland should be introduced here.

I would also recommend a diminution in the taxes imposed in law proceedings. The fees of the attorneys and barristers are very moderate, lower, indeed, I am informed, than in any of the other Colonies. But the fees as established for the notaries royal (conveyancers and masters) are high, and the fees and dues payable to the Registry of the Courts and the Provost Marshal's Office for the Colonial Treasury, are comparatively speaking high, and a bar to just litigation; and might well be reduced so as merely to cover the office expenses.

One distinctive characteristic of law, peculiar to St. Lucia, is that, up to the present day, aliens of all nations have been allowed to acquire real property in the island. The "droit d'aubaine," formerly so strictly observed in France and its colonies, was abolished by the edict of the King of France, of June, 1783, and it appears, that since that period, foreigners have been permitted to purchase estates, and, until a late period, to hold lucrative office under the local government. Indeed, within the last few years, a French subject (Baron d'Yooley) was a member of the honourable the Legislative Council. How far the proceedings of that Board were legal when so constituted is a matter of question; but, at all events, the anomaly was exhibited of royal instructions to the Governor, positively restricting him from the naturalization of aliens, and his *de facto* naturalization of aliens, by allowing them to hold the highest and most confidential office, with the full enjoyment of landed property for themselves and their descendants. These remarks are not made with the view of calling for animadversion, (which is not my province,) but simply of pointing out the state of the law on a very important matter of public concernment.

The want of a proper collection of what may be called the Statute Law, has been much felt by all classes, as well as by the Government. The compilation of anything like a complete code would be the labour of a life; and an expense altogether disproportioned to the means of the community. But the publication of the different Ordinances and Orders in Council, with extracts from the "Code de la Martinique," and the "Coutume de Paris," and also the laws as they stand recorded in the Registry of the Royal Court, would be of essential benefit,* and is now almost of absolute necessity. Neither Government in England, at Barbadoes, or the local government here, nor any of the public offices, are in possession of all the volumes necessary to form a complete collection. There are, it is believed, only two copies of the "Coutume de Paris" in the Colony, and hardly more than two copies of the "Code de la Martinique" have escaped the ravages of insects and climate. The language in which they are principally couched, will, of course, for many years, require that the judges who are to

* His Excellency Colonel Torrens has also, among the many beneficial and wise acts of his administration, resolved to have a collection of this description printed for the public benefit.

enforce them should be competent masters of the French language, and indeed possess some knowledge of the principles of French and Roman jurisprudence.

I am not aware that any great practical* amelioration can be introduced into the judicature of St. Lucia, under the present circumstances of the nature of its population, its language, and its financial position, until Her Majesty's Government may be pleased to put in operation the Act of the 6th Will. IV. c. 17, entitled, "An Act to make provision for the better Administration of Justice in certain of His Majesty's West India Colonies. 7th June, 1836."

This Act has hitherto remained a dead letter on the statute book of the realm, partly from interested and vexatious opposition on the part of certain individuals or factions in one or two of these Colonies; partly, it is believed, from Government not having yet determined from what funds a certain portion of the expense should be taken, and whether a part should not be paid by the Home Treasury. But the Colonial Minister who shall carry out the purposes contemplated by that Act, and relieve the people of these small but valuable possessions from the apprehension, (however erroneous,) of their highest local judicatures being influenced by long local residence, or party feeling, or personal bias, and the judges from the imputation and a suspicion of partiality, which naturally arises from their very position in a small Colony, and against which the most purely minded and single hearted must struggle in vain; will do more to advance social improvement and a better state of feeling amongst all classes (to say nothing of commercial prosperity) than by any other measure with which he could bless these Colonies. Nor will the boon be limited to the social welfare and moral improvement of these communities. The British merchant and capitalist will have an additional inducement, and guarantee for enterprize and speculation, and the investment of wealth, in the establishment of a high Circuit Court of Appeal, which, with a more extensive range of knowledge and ability, and exempt from all local prejudice and pressure, may by degrees assimilate the civil procedure and laws, and often conflicting and anomalous rules and regulations of the various Island Courts, to the well known and established rules and practice of the judicature of the mother country; thus binding more closely and indissolubly the highest and best interests of all.

The number of British merchants trading to the West India Islands may, comparatively speaking be small; but their investment of capital and credit is great, and the absentee property entrusted to their management is immense. The interests of the British merchant and capitalist, on whom depends, to so great an extent, the condition, flourishing or otherwise, of every Colony, may well be taken into consideration on the broad grounds of general Colonial policy; and I very humbly suggest that it is as little for their advantage, as for that of the

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* I beg to subjoin part of a charge to the assessors, delivered last week at the Criminal Court:—

"GENTLEMEN ASSESSORS,

"I HAVE very few observations to make to you on the present occasion. The calendar before us, though not so small as on some former sessions, presents no unusual appearance, either as to the number of cases or the gravity of the offences, and certainly is much below the average calendar of former years.

"There is, it is true, an information filed for murder; but if the evidence goes no further than the depositions before the Court, it will turn out to be nothing more than, at worst, an unhappy case of manslaughter, occurring in a casual conflict between the soldiers of different regiments, after a merry making on Christmas eve.

"There are, it appears, four cases of assault, with felonious intent, of an aggravated nature; four cases for larceny in dwelling-houses, one for burglary, and a case of an individual who has been very properly sent before this Court as one of the few incorrigible rogues and indecent vagabonds, which it is the lot of St. Lucia to possess within its boundaries. To these cases you will, I doubt not, give your most careful attention and best consideration, not less on account of this being your bounden duty in terms of the oath which you will be called upon to take, but if possible, more religiously from the consequences which will attach to your discharge of your functions, as assessors, whether well or ill; for as I have already repeatedly told you from this place, (and I will not cease to remind you,) Her Majesty and Her Majesty's Governors are quite prepared to bestow upon you the noble institution of trial by jury in criminal cases, as soon as you shall show yourselves fit and worthy to receive it.

"It will be matter of great personal satisfaction, and even of not improper pride, if before I take a final leave of this Colony, I can bear a part in the introduction of trial by jury in all criminal cases, and also in all civil cases in which the two parties to the suit desire to have it tried by a jury. No possible benefit which might result to the Colony from the introduction of jury trial could surpass the exceeding great relief which its introduction would be to the judges of this Court, from the responsibility and pressure, (I will not descend to notice the popular odium or invidiousness,) which the present system entails with it. But this change must depend, not on the feelings or eagerness for relief from an overwhelming responsibility on the part of those who can find, in their own breast, strength and consolation for the discharge of the sternest duties which their country may confide to them, but altogether on the intelligence and the capacity, the truthfulness and the independent integrity which you exhibit as assessors, and also in some degree on the progress you make in the English language, and in imbibing with it the manly feelings and sturdy spirit of Britons.

"The "chapitre des considérations" must find no place with a juryman; all personal leanings and prejudices of colour and class must disappear, and party and faction must be forgotten when you enter these walls.

"Born, as you are, in an island where trial by jury has not yet been known, you may at first find it difficult, and perhaps may consider it onerous and troublesome to exercise the office of jurymen; and it will be only safe or practicable for Government and the Legislative Council to bestow it upon you when ceasing to regard the various offices of a similar public trust and importance, such as those of justice of the peace, assessor, town-warden, road commissioners, as a hardship or burden, and thus compelling Government to devolve those duties on the special stipendiary magistracy; you accept them as a benefit, and consider yourselves honoured by being selected to hold and enjoy them.

"A selfish or indolent apathy affords no encouragement to Government to bestow upon you institutions, municipal or others, fitted only for the public spirited and the high-minded and energetic amongst mankind! Let me hope that taking advantage of the great administrative ability and paternal interest in your welfare evinced by your present governors, whether here or at Barbados, you will by your own conduct enable and warrant them to recommend Her Majesty gradually to introduce amongst you the happy free institutions of a severer people."

ST. LUCIA.

colonists themselves, for the sake of any financial parsimony,—the saving of a few hundred pounds,—to leave the administration of justice in these islands, as it is now constituted, under the pressure of local circumstances and narrow-minded and often tortuous and interested local policy.

May I venture to offer one suggestion more as regards the judicial bench. The task is a delicate one for a judge; but no one can speak with surer or greater authority than one who has passed through the ordeal. If the judges are not made independent, and feel that they may rely on the Crown for protection, justice may be administered with clean, but certainly with feeble and faltering hands. Perhaps the following letter, addressed to His Excellency Sir Charles Fitzroy, Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, on the 20th August, 1844, may serve to explain the position of judges in a West India community :—

"SIR, "St. Lucia, 20th August, 1844.

"ALTHOUGH I have not the honour of being personally known to your Excellency, I am persuaded you will excuse the freedom I now take in addressing you on a subject connected with the best interests of the public service, a subject which your Excellency has evinced yourself to have at heart, and which you have treated with so much of vigorous and skilful statesmanlike ability in your message to the Council of Antigua of 9th May, of this year, viz., the reform in the judicial system of the islands under your government.

"Permit me to congratulate your Excellency on your hitherto successful endeavours, and to hope that the ultimate result may crown and reward your just expectations.

"Nothing, it appears to me, can be happier or wiser than the idea and general plan of the proposal of the two circuits; but there is one point on which the success of the whole will depend, which, permit me, with all deference, to press upon your attention, viz., the independence and professional reputation of the judges.

"May I venture to beg your Excellency to reconsider whether the remuneration proposed, and the tenure on which it is to be held, will give the new judicial system that stability and standing in the community, which is essential to the satisfactory working of all judicial systems. Will professional men, of fair or even ordinary ability, be got to accept such appointments? or will they not be grasped at by those of the profession who may be needy or broken down in professional character?

"Can a man who receives for salary as judge 400*l.* or 250*l.*, (less than a stipendiary magistrate,) maintain a decent appearance in those communities, or feel himself independent, or be so considered by others? or can you expect that for these sums, (many an estate manager has much more,) he will devote the best part of his life, and his industry and laborious attention, to the success of a system in which he has so slight a stake,—so little interest,—is so little cared for?

"Such a salary would, in my opinion, eventually tend to make an indifferent and careless judge, even of a Lyndhurst or a Denman. No man would take the office who respected himself, or having taken it in ignorance, would long continue to have any pride in it, or to discharge its duties as you would desire and the public have a right to expect all judicial functions should be discharged.

"Then, again, for the chief justice, 1200*l.* What English barrister, (who must have spent such a sum on his library alone,) to say nothing of his education, can be expected to break up his establishment at home, sell house and property, be at the expense of coming out and a new establishment on such a salary, without even the certainty of a retiring pension? As well might a colonel in command of a regiment be expected to do his duty and be contented on a corporal's pay.

There may be men amongst the profession of some private fortune, or expectation of fortune, who, from considerations of health or climate, or for the honour of the title, or imbued with a desire for the public service, may accept such office on such a salary, to reside quietly and permanently, surrounded by a few friends, in the bosom of their families, in a comfortable residence, in a given Colony; but to find a barrister (worthy of the name) who will go through the wear and tear of a West Indian circuit, passing from island to island in perpetual succession, having no home, nor leisure, nor repose, nor friends,—foregoing all domestic comforts, all conjugal or family relations, and all regular professional study, is, I will venture to say, impossible; and if such a man were by accident led into such an undertaking, his disgust and disappointment would operate equally disastrously on his own mind and on the office he filled.

And what is the tenure on which this miserable pittance is to be held? Partly the pleasure of the Crown; partly the good will and control of the local legislatures. To the former there can, practically, be little objection, whatever there may be in theory; but to the latter, the objections are of the most serious character.

In the general course of human nature, a power over a man's subsistence amounts to a power over his will; to act upon any other view of the subject would be to disregard experience and the operation of the invariable principles which regulate human conduct. There are, indeed, men who could neither be distressed nor won into a sacrifice of duty: but this stern nature is the growth of few soils, and flourishes in still fewer breasts; and it will be found that the general lesson of human life is, that men obey their own interests; that they may be driven by poverty into base compliances, or tempted by largesses to a corrupt desertion of duty.

Now, when your Excellency considers that a firm independent administration of justice is

the most stable foundation and the chief support of all government,—that, with courts of justice giving satisfaction, government is comparatively an easy task, inasmuch as personal security and private property, and consequently general contentment and satisfaction, rest entirely on the wisdom and stability, the integrity and the respect which courts of justice can command,—you will, I trust, taking an extended view of these points, place your judges under your new system in a position in which they will feel themselves decently, if not competently, provided for,—independent in every way, and therefore desirous to maintain self respect,—to be respected, and able to command respect,—and, above all, free from care and anxiety, to be enabled to give all their attention and their powers of mind to the discharge of the important and solemn functions confided to them.

The West India Commissioners, in their reports quoted by your Excellency, recommended very different salaries—salaries which may now be considered disproportionately high; but the golden mean will, I doubt not, be found by your Excellency: on the precise amount I presume to make no suggestion.

I pray your Excellency to excuse these remarks, written, at all events, with a good intention, and containing the result of the practical experience of one who has presided over a Court in either hemisphere for more than twelve years, and who may be considered quite disinterested, from his standing in such a position, towards the Government, that he would never be called upon to fill any office without at least an adequate remuneration; but who, if honoured by the sovereign's order to assume the chief justiceship of Antigua, would prefer to obey the command from a sense of duty, without any salary whatever, than to accept the sum now proposed as remuneration for the duties to be performed.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. Reddie.

His Excellency Sir Charles Fitzroy,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief
of the Leeward Islands,
&c. &c.

I subjoin copies of the Royal Edict, abolishing the Droit d'Aubaine of 1783.

(No. 621.) *Edit du Roi portant abolition du Droit d'Aubaine dans la Guyanne Française et dans les Iles de Sainte Lucie et de Tabago.*

Du Mois de Juin, 1783.

Louis, &c., Salut. Animés du désir de réparer, autant qu'il est en nous, les maux occasionnés par la guerre, nous avons profité des premiers momens de la paix pour nous faire rendre compte de la situation de nos Colonies en Amérique, et nous occuper du moyen de leur procurer un accroissement de culture, dont la métropole partagera les avantages. Nous avons reconnu que si, dans presque toutes nos Colonies, le nombre des colons n'est pas en proportion avec la quantité des terreins à cultiver, il en existe trois surtout, la Guyanne Française et les îles de Sainte Lucie et de Tabago, où la disproportion est si considérable, que la culture ne pourrait qu'y languir pendant longtems, si nous n'y appellions pas des capitalistes étrangers par l'abolition du Droit d'Aubaine. Si cette suppression produit dans ces Colonies les effets heureux que nous nous en promettons, ce sera un motif de plus pour en étendre par la suite aux autres le bienfait.

A ces causes &c., voulons et nous plait ce qui suit.

Art. I. Nous avons aboli et abolissons le Droit d'Aubaine dans la Guyanne Française ainsi que dans les îles de Sainte Lucie et Tabago. Permettons en conséquence à tous étrangers, de quelque nation qu'ils soient, de s'y établir, et de disposer, en faveur de qui bon leur semblera, même en faveur des étrangers, par donation entrevifs, ou par testament, suivant les lois et les formes observées dans les dites Colonies, de tous les biens, de quelque nature qu'ils soient, mobiliers ou immobiliers, qu'ils y auront acquis, à quelque titre que ce soit.

II. Les successions des dits étrangers seront recueillies par leurs héritiers naturels, en quelque pays qu'ils habitent, et à quelque domination qu'ils soient soumis, quand même nous serions en guerre avec leur Souverain; et leur seront délivrées, sans qu'elles puissent être assujetties à autres ni plus grands droits, que ceux qui se paient par nos propres sujets pour les successions de même nature.

III. En exécution des articles précédens, tous les étrangers et leurs ayant causes, pourront recueillir, dans les trois Colonies ci dessus désignées, tous leurs biens et effets, de quelque nature qu'ils soient; transporter, ou ils jugeront à propos, les biens et effets mobiliers à l'exception de ceux destinés, à l'exploitation des habitations et notamment des esclaves qui ne pourront être exportés en nature, fussent ils même employés à d'autres travaux qu'à ceux de l'agriculture, faire valoir les dites habitations, les vendre ainsi que les autres objets ci dessus exceptés, et en retirer le prix pour le transporter où il leur plaira, en justifiant seulement de leurs titres propriété.

Si donnons en mandament, &c.

Donné à Versailles, au mois de Juin, 1783. Signé Louis; et plus bas, Par le Roi—La Croix, Maréchal de Castries.

Enregist. au Conseil Souverain.

And also the proclamation by the commanding officer of the British military and naval forces after the capture of the island, 23rd June, 1803.

ST. LUCIA.

(No. 1481). *Proclamation de leurs Excellences le Général Grinfield, et le Chef d'Escadre Samuel Hood, Commandant les Forces de Terre et de Mer de S. M. B. qui accorde aux Habitans de l'Ile Sainte Lucie, les mêmes avantages qu'avant la dernière Cession.*

Du 23 Juin, 1803.

Quoique la dite île ait été prise d'assaut et sans aucune capitulation ou stipulations quelconques, néanmoins pour tranquilliser les habitans et les propriétaires sur leur état actuel, jusqu' à ce que la détermination de S. M. soit définitivement prononcée, leurs Excellences leur assurent pleine et entière jouissance de toutes leurs propriétés, sous les lois qui existaient dans la Colonie à l'époque, immédiatement antérieure à la dernière cession.

Toutes les autorités constituées sont chargées de se conformer à cette proclamation.

Donné à Sainte Lucie, le 23 Juin, 1803.

(Signé) GRINFIELD et SAMUEL HOOD.

Enregist. au Greffe de la Sénéchaussée de Sainte Lucie.

A circumstance which has a very detrimental influence on the administration of justice is, that there are no public buildings nor public court-house.

The Royal Court is now held in the dining-room of the private house, formerly occupied by myself; the Registry is in a room underneath it; and though this arrangement may serve for the present, for the sake of common decorum and decency a court-house should be erected. The stipendiary justices and justices of the peace also make use of the same room; so that the Colony for the last nine years has been put to little expense indeed for the administration of justice.

No. 17.

(No. 9.)

No. 17.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE to Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY, dated Downing-street, May 20, 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 12, of the 2nd April, together with the annual report of the Officer administering the Government of St. Lucia to accompany the Blue Book for 1845.

The attention of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade will be called to some portions of Colonel Torrens's report, and that of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to others.

In reference to that portion in which Colonel Torrens appears to contemplate the encouragement of immigration by a bounty on immigrants, it will be necessary to apprize him that Her Majesty's Government do not sanction the application of public money to the promotion of emigration from one West Indian Colony to another.

ANTIGUA.

(No. 27.) No. 18. No. 18

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor CUNNINGHAM, to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Government House, Antigua, April 27, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this island for the year 1845.

As I only arrived in Antigua about six weeks before the conclusion of the period to which the Blue Book refers, I may be permitted, perhaps, to substitute for a general report, a few remarks upon such of the returns as appear to require explanation.

As to the revenue and expenditure, the amount actually received in 1845, exceeds that of the preceding year by the nett sum of 3034*l.* 12*s.* sterling, and I am happy to state that after a very liberal expenditure the balance in hand at the end of 1845 amounted to 13,717*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* The increase in the actual receipts has arisen, for the most part, from the augmented consumption of dutyable goods, and particularly the productions of the United States; although, as I shall show hereafter, the declared value of imports generally was less in 1845 than in the preceding year.

The nett excess of expenditure amounts to 8,232*l.* sterling, which has been caused, in a great measure, by the unavoidable and heavy expense incurred in rebuilding the cathedral and restoring other public buildings destroyed or damaged by the earthquake of 1843.

An augmentation of the police force accounts for an increased charge under that item; while a contribution to the sufferers by the extensive fire at Bridgetown in Barbados, a legislative grant to Sir Charles FitzRoy, and the pension allotted to the late Attorney-General, Mr. Lee, are sufficient to explain the increase under the head of Pensions and Donations.

The apparent decrease in the disbursements for highways, is to be explained by the fact that, but little being expended thereon in 1843, the accounts for 1844 embodied the charges for both years. I regret to have to add that this department of the public service is in a very unsatisfactory state, and as long as the present system of irresponsible management by the parochial vestries is allowed to continue, I do not anticipate any amendment.

The amounts paid to the respective parishes from the general funds of the colony are in aid of the local expenses for ministers' stipends, support of the poor, &c. &c. &c.

The additional charge for the common jail is to be explained by the junction of the House of Correction with that establishment, so that the separate charge for the latter establishment no longer exists. The junction took place in 1844, which accounts for the small sum paid in that year, on account of the House of Correction.

The last item of disbursement, which it appears necessary to notice, is the sum of 401*l.* sterling, paid as bounty, on the immigration of English and Irish agricultural labourers, under the authority of an Act subsequently disallowed by Her Majesty's Government. The experiment must, I fear, be pronounced on the whole a failure. A large proportion of the people thus introduced into the Colony have either died or have left the island for America; others are obtaining casual employment, and several are inmates of the Daily Meal Society's infirmary. I ought, however, to mention that a case has been brought under my notice where a managing attorney has adopted a system of providing meals under his own roof at regular periods of the day for a party of English labourers in the same way as is often done for farm servants in parts of the mother country. I am happy to say, that under the arrangements made by this gentleman, the labourers have suffered less in health, and their conduct has been more regular and industrious than in any other instance of which I am aware.

Of the public works enumerated, the causeway to Rat Island was the only one not completed at the close of 1854. It is now nearly finished, and requires

ANTIGUA.

only a covering of broken stones to render it fit for use. It has been chiefly constructed by the labour of the prisoners.

The cathedral, to which reference is made at page 130, is now in the course of erection from the designs, and under the superintendence of a young English architect, and a clerk of the works, engaged expressly for the purpose. The corner-stone was laid on the 9th of September last, and such progress has been made that the whole of the internal wooden frame has been put up, and the exterior stone walls are rising above the lower range of windows. An expenditure of 30,000*l.* currency has already been incurred, and probably as much more will be required for its completion.

The restoration of some of the churches in the rural parishes has also been commenced; and the places of worship belonging to other denominations of Christians have been completely repaired since the earthquake.

The legislative business of the year presents nothing worthy of particular remark.

As regards the population table, it may be worthy of notice, that the baptisms and burials nearly balance each other, and that as respects the Moravian congregations which embody by far the larger portion of the labouring population, the burials have exceeded the baptisms by 57. It may also be observed that for the series of years from 1841 to 1844 inclusive, there was a regularly progressive decrease in the number of burials as under,

1841 . . .	1028
1842 . . .	931
1843 . . .	843
1844 . . .	760

while in 1845 the number is again augmented to 964. There has not been, as far as I am aware, any epidemic so generally prevalent in the island as to explain this sudden and serious increase in the number of deaths. The troops, however, suffered very severely from dysentery at the close of the year, and I believe that the same disease proved fatal to many of the labouring classes, and especially to young children. I may, perhaps, add that the average proportion of burials to the whole amount of the population deduced from the returns for the five years 1841 to 1845, both inclusive, is stated to be $2_{T}{}^{4}{}_{0}{}^{5}{}_{0}$ per cent.

The returns in reference to education do not exactly tally in point of form with those of the Blue Book for 1844, but the general result would appear to indicate a reduction in the number of scholars borne on the books of the schools from 7664 in 1844, to 7387 in 1845.

I regret to say that the legislative houses have not, as yet, taken any steps in reference to Lord Stanley's Despatch (Circular) of 1st October, on the subject of the education of the lower classes. I have already urged this important matter upon their consideration, and shall not fail to do so again, if some legislative measure is not speedily introduced, with a view to supply the assistance which has hitherto been afforded the cause of education by Her Majesty's Government and different societies in England.

The falling off in the official value of imports amounts in the whole to 15,279*l.*, but the decrease in exports is of a more serious character, amounting to 107,530*l.* This latter deficiency of course indicates a considerable failure in the produce of the island staples. The comparative returns of produce exported, taken from the Custom House records, are as under:—

	1844.	1845.	Deficit.
Sugar—Hogsheads . .	15,357	11,809	3,548
Tierces . . .	1,562	1,012	550
Barrels . . .	4,512	2,745	1,767
Molasses—Puncheons . .	9,020	8,780	240
Hogsheads . .	127	..	127
Arrow-root—Boxes . .	665	407	258
Barrels . . .	104	..	104

The smallness of the crop of 1845 is to be attributed, I believe, almost entirely to the long and severe drought under which the island has suffered. The crop of 1846 has been much injured from a similar cause; and that of 1847 was considered in great jeopardy until very lately, when the planter's more immediate fears have been relieved by some seasonable rains.

The agricultural condition and prospects of the island form so prominent a feature in the returns lately transmitted by Sir Robert Horsford, as stipendiary

magistrate, that I need scarcely do more than refer to the information which he has furnished.

I have already had occasion to allude to the failure of the experiment of bringing out European agricultural labourers, and although complaints of insufficient labour are still prevalent, and suggestions are occasionally heard in reference to the introduction of labourers from Madeira and elsewhere, no active measures have as yet been taken in this direction.

A company has been established to supply on hire horse-ploughs and horse-hoes, and has met with much support and encouragement. As the object of this company is to do away with the necessity of keeping up large establishments on each estate for its own particular cultivation, it appears likely to exert a beneficial influence on agricultural affairs.

The effect of the temporary suspension of cultivation caused by the drought, is manifested in a very general return to the more moderate scale of wages which prevailed three years ago. Of the Agricultural Association I can say nothing, as no meetings have, to the best of my knowledge, been held during my residence in the island; and I believe that since the death of Mr. Bourne, the Secretary to the General Association, in the month of November last year, no attempt has been made to supply his place. As to the necessity for an increased supply of labour, the Census Returns of 1844 show that $\frac{9}{24}$ths of the entire population are engaged in agricultural pursuits; and allowing 160 estates to be in cultivation, the return in question would give an average of about 85 to each. If this number or anything like it could be depended upon, it would be amply sufficient for all practical purposes. However there is no such disposable amount of labour, and the question is, how that amount is to be increased? My own view certainly is, that the chief end and object of immigration, namely, the bringing a greater supply of labour into the market, would be best effected by the introduction of more economical management, and the adoption of improvements in the system of manuring and cultivation.

The number of prisoners seems to have been, in some degree, increased during the year 1845, as compared with 1844, though the number of recommitments exhibits a diminution. This is satisfactory, as also the reduced number of punishments for breach of prison discipline. The three deaths which are noticed as having taken place in the common gaol, were in no instance attributable to any cause connected with the prison or its discipline.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. CUNNINGHAM, Lieut.-Governor,
Administering General Government.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 27.) No. 19. No. 19.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, to Lieut.-Governor Cunningham.

Sir, Downing-street, May 29, 1846.

I have received your Despatch, No. 27, of the 27th April, containing your report to accompany the Antigua Blue Book for 1845.

From the tenour of your observations on the system by which the public roads are managed, I infer that if there be any prospect of obtaining an improvement of the system from the Legislature, you will make a proposal to them on the subject. If you should see grounds for doing so, I shall be glad to learn the particulars of the proposal which you may make, and I shall take an interest in its success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

Lieut.-Governor Cunningham,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 20. (No. 11.) No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor CUNNINGHAM to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Government House, Antigua,
March 9, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the island of St. Christopher for the year 1845, and the Report with which Mr. President Claxton has accompanied it.

It does not appear necessary that I should trouble you with any details as to the state and prospects of the island, in addition to those which have been furnished by Mr. Claxton.

I entirely concur with him as to the increasing prosperity of St. Christopher's; crops considerably beyond the usual average have been made during the last two years; great improvements have taken place in agriculture; the island generally is in a very fine state of cultivation, and the labouring population settling down gradually into contented and continuous industry.

There is only one opinion expressed in Mr. Claxton's Report with which I am unable to coincide, and this is with reference to the advantages which he considers to have accrued from the immigration of English labourers during the past year. Mr. Claxton having stated that the colony has derived benefit from such immigration, goes on to show that "from seventy to a hundred immigrants are now dispersed over the island, and are actually employed in agricultural duties." On referring to the consolidated table from the reports of the stipendiary magistrates, I find that 216 immigrants have arrived in St. Christopher during the past year, and of these I know that a very large proportion were adults.

In the paper submitted to Parliament on the 8th August, 1845, the secretary of the Agricultural Association at St. Christopher's gives 129 as the number of male labourers who had arrived during the year. Independent of this number there were, I believe, many big boys and growing lads, who, as far as I have had an opportunity of judging, have turned out better than the older labourers. But without reckoning these lads, Mr. Claxton's lowest calculation of 70 now at work, would indeed be a terrible decrease in one year from 129; and even his highest, viz., 100, would show that from some cause or another nearly one-fourth of the male adult immigrants are no longer at work. This, however, is a subject which ought not to be left in uncertainty; and I have therefore called upon Mr. Claxton to obtain, through the medium of the stipendiary magistrates, and from other available sources, the most accurate information within his reach, as to the decrease among agricultural immigrants from Great Britain. I shall forward his Report as soon as it reaches me, but in the meantime it seems right that I should not withhold my own opinion in reference to the advantages or disadvantages to be expected from English immigration. This is as follows: that, as artizans and mechanics, as in-door servants and indeed as out-door servants, employed in such occupation as not to be much exposed to the effects of the climate, I believe that a certain number of well-selected immigrants might be brought hither with benefit to themselves and to the community at large; but with regard to agricultural immigrants, indiscriminately hired and shipped for employment in these islands, as I fear they have too often been, without reference to their character or capabilities, I venture to express my entire belief, that no benefit which may accrue to the community from their greater skill in the use of agricultural implements, can compensate for the misery which too often befalls themselves, and for the sad example as to habits and conduct which they present to the negro population.

I cannot but set against the favourable view which Mr. Claxton seems to take of this subject the declaration of Mr. Aston Davoren, a very leading man in the House of Assembly at St. Kitt's, who had been one of the warmest promoters of white immigration during 1845, but felt himself compelled to admit in a debate on the subject in the month of January, 1846, that "it was generally considered now that the measure of white immigration had failed."

I should be rejoiced to learn that Mr. Claxton's opinion on this subject is the

correct one, but I could not transmit it for your consideration without stating the contrary view which I have, after diligent inquiry, been led to take of agricultural immigration from Great Britain to the islands comprised within this Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. CUNNINGHAM, Lieut.-Governor,
Administering General Government.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 20.

SIR, Government House, St. Christopher's, March 5, 1846.

THE duty of forwarding to you the Blue Book for 1845 has devolved on me, and also of drawing your attention to such matters of interest in respect of the colony as appear to be important.

There is, I trust, every reason for congratulation on the increasing prosperity of the colony.

In consequence of the judicious transfer, by legislative enactment, of the collection of the tariff from the Treasurer of the island to the officer of Her Majesty's customs, an increase has occurred in the revenue of the last year to the extent of 1000*l.* sterling; and, notwithstanding the extraordinary grants of the Colonial Legislature during the year, it has been found to be more than adequate to the expenditure of the colony.

These grants consist of 1000*l.* sterling towards the erection of a new gaol; 500*l.* towards the General Hospital; 600*l.* towards the improvement of roads; 1000*l.* towards the encouragement of immigration of European labourers; 200*l.* towards the repairs of the parish church of St. Peter's; 300*l.* towards the relief of the sufferers by fire at Barbados; and 500*l.*, the salary of the civil engineer; amounting together to the sum of 4100*l.*; leaving still a balance of 1500*l.* to the credit of the public in the colonial treasury, on the 31st December, 1845.

There also appears to have been an actual increase in the exports and imports over those of the preceding year.

It may be inferred, from the number of baptisms being larger than the number of deaths, that population is gradually increasing; and, as the tide of emigration has ceased to flow towards the southern colonies to the extent that it heretofore did, there is every reason to hope that labour will become more abundant. European immigration, to a larger extent than that which occurred during the last year, may not be necessary; but I am inclined to hope that, so far as it has been already encouraged, it has been productive of benefit to the colony. There are at this moment from 70 to 100 Europeans dispersed over the island, and actually employed in agricultural duties; and, by their example and skill in the application of implemental husbandry, they are likely to elicit native talent, and excite emulation in native industry. By the use of the plough, the weeding machine, and other implements, much manual labour is thrown into the market for other purposes; and I believe that, if the price of labour is not actually diminished, the want of it is less sensibly felt; and the native labourer, where he has acquired the talent and the will to give during the day or week the same amount of labour as is obtained from the European, will have no difficulty in obtaining the same remunerating wages.

I have no doubt that the Legislature, during the present annual session, will be disposed to exercise a becoming liberality. In respect of the public buildings already commenced, the iron roof and windows of the new gaol will shortly arrive from England, when its progress will no longer be retarded. The hospital, now connected with the poor-house, and for the completion of which the colony is so much indebted to the liberality and patronage of Your Excellency, well deserves the fostering care of the Legislature.

By an increased grant, to no great extent, from the public treasury, by some enactment under which the stream of private benevolence may be directed into an efficient channel, this building might be rendered not only useful for ordinary purposes, but a general system of vaccination might be organized, which would afford, under God's blessing, a protection against any future inroad upon our population, more particularly the labouring class, by that loathsome and destructive disease, the small-pox. The new church which has been commenced will also require considerable legislative assistance; and I humbly trust that the excitement which lately prevailed on the subject of rubrical conformity has sufficiently subsided as to enable the Legislature to consider this subject, so dear to every true member of our holy Church, without any alloy to their usual liberality.

Your Excellency is aware that the Legislature have pledged themselves to the consideration, during the present Sessions, of the interesting question of general education, and I have every hope that it will be entered upon and matured with that spirit of liberality which its importance, in regard to the temporal and spiritual welfare of the community, so imperatively demands.

The separation of the questions of rent and labour, by the erection of villages, independent of estates, and by granting leases of small plots of land on estates to resident labourers, is much on the increase, and deserves every encouragement which the Legislature may be able to bestow.

I am happy to be enabled to bear my humble testimony to the general good conduct of our

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

labouring population, although, at this moment, the gaol is more than usually crowded with prisoners, charged with the commission of minor offences.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT CLAXTON, President,
Administering the Government.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Cunningham,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 21.

(No. 19.)

No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE to Lieut.-Governor CUNNINGHAM.

SIR, Downing-street, April 24, 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, St. Christopher's, No. 11, of the 9th of March, transmitting, with your own observations and Mr. President Claxton's Report, the Blue Book of that island for 1845.

I have read with satisfaction the account which is given by Mr. Claxton, and confirmed by you, of the general improvement and prosperity of St. Christopher's, and the prospects which appear to lie before it.

I have directed to be referred to the Commissioners for Colonial Lands and Emigration those parts of these documents which relate to emigration from this country to St. Christopher's.

I approve the steps which you have taken for making further inquiry into the apparent decrease in the numbers of European immigrants now at work in the island.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

Lieut.-Governor Cunningham,
&c. &c. &c.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 22.

(No. 4.)

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Lieut.-Governor CUNNINGHAM to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Government House, Antigua, April 7, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1845, together with the Report thereon of Lieutenant-Governor Macdonald.

As this Report seems to embrace all matters of general interest, I propose only to advert briefly to such points as appear to me to require some explanatory remarks.

The Lieutenant-Governor states, that the balance in the hands of the treasurer is small in comparison with that of the preceding year; but I am unable to ascertain, by the evidence afforded by the Blue Book itself, how there can be any balance at all in the hands of the treasurer, since the balance sheet exhibits an excess of disbursements over receipts of 2092*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, or, including as an item of revenue, the balance apparently in the hands of the treasurer at the end of 1844 amounting to 360*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, a net excess of expenditure of 1732*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

For the same reason, I find myself at a loss to discover the marked improvement to which Colonel Macdonald alludes, in the comparative amount of revenue derived in 1844 and 1845, from the duties on imports and exports. The statements, on the contrary, if I understand them correctly, furnish evidence of a very considerable falling off in the last mentioned item, and of similar failure, though not to so serious an extent in the first. It is, nevertheless, satisfactory to observe, that the loss of revenue has been chiefly ascribable to the interrupted operation of certain laws imposing taxes, and not to any decline of trade or decrease in the value of property.

In the sentiments expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the educational institutions of the island I fully agree. There appears to be a prevalent inclination in the legislature of these colonies to provide expensively for schools wherein the higher branches of instruction shall be taught, to the

almost entire neglect of those adapted for the training of the children of the humbler classes of society. The withdrawal of the Mico schools from an island so peculiarly circumstanced as Dominica is much to be regretted, as the system of teaching adopted in them was one which rendered them open alike to the children of all the religious denominations existing in the colony.

With respect to the Lieutenant-Governor's observations on the state of the Roseau gaol, I beg leave to refer to the correspondence inclosed with my Despatch, "General," No. 7, of the 11th March.

The comparative statements of imports for 1844 and 1845, and of exports, throw some light on the remarks of Colonel Macdonald, in reference to the revenue derived from these branches of commerce, which I have alluded to in the earlier part of this Despatch, for on examining them it will be found that the excess, in each case, in the official values of imports and exports for 1845 over 1844, amounts to exactly the sum quoted by the Lieutenant-Governor in the paragraph in question, which reads as follows:—

"The revenue arising from imports and exports induces me, with much "satisfaction, to draw your Excellency's favourable attention thereto, as regards "its improvement, when compared with the corresponding one of the year "previous. On the exports, there is an increase amounting to 2691*l.* sterling; "and on the imports, 3203*l.* sterling."

It is gratifying to find that the misapprehension existing in the minds of many of the rural population as to the tenure of the land on which they had squatted, in the Queen's Three Chains, has been for the most part overcome; and, I believe, there can be no doubt, that the Lieutenant-Governor's opinions, as to the generally peaceful and prosperous condition of the community over which he presides, are based on adequate and accurate grounds.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. CUNNINGHAM, Lieut.-Governor,
Administering General Government.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Encl. in No. 22.

SIR, Government House, Dominica, March 25, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Annual Blue Book for the year ending 31st December, 1845.

CONDITION AND PROSPECTS.

On a retrospective view of the year preceding, I find the colony had been placed in a most unhappy state, by the outbreak which occurred in the month of August; but as the circumstances connected therewith have been minutely reported upon in the several Despatches forwarded by my immediate predecessor, Mr. President Laidlow, I shall confine myself to its consequences, resulting in a great number of the negro population having been brought to trial, and convicted during that period.

On my arrival in the month of March last year, finding that the negroes had become sensible of the unfortunate misunderstanding which had given origin to the outbreak, I deemed it my duty to represent to the Governor-General, his Excellency Sir Charles FitzRoy, that it was my opinion the time had arrived when those misguided individuals who had been imprisoned for various offences might be released, which representation met with his Excellency's immediate approval, and I feel happy in stating that tranquillity has been completely restored, and all traces of that unfortunate event have disappeared.

Much excitement existed previous to, and for some time after, my arrival, consequent on the regulations and decision come to by Government in reference to that part of the Crown lands denominated "The Queen's Three Chains," many negroes had taken possession, or "squatted," on these lands without authority, and petitions were daily forwarded by them to me upon the subject, and it was only after a long and tedious course of personal explanation to them that the discontent manifested on the occasion had subsided. The people are now, generally speaking, in a happy and prosperous condition.

FINANCE.

Upon this subject the taxes and duties collected for the year amount to 10,468*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The balance in the hands of the treasurer is small in comparison with that of the preceding year; this may be accounted for from the circumstance of the General Tax Bill on Exports not having been renewed, but which has been for some time before the Legislature with the object of its renewal.

The revenue arising from imports and exports induces me, with much satisfaction, to draw

DOMINICA.

your Excellency's favourable attention thereto, as regards its improvement, when compared with the corresponding one of the year previous. On the exports, there is an increase amounting to 2691*l.* sterling; and on the imports, 3203*l.* sterling.

Public Improvements.

A canal (the project for which had been many years in contemplation) was commenced on the 21st of July, under the able direction of Mr. John Finlay, the Surveyor-General; its object is to convey a stream of water from the Roseau River into the town of that name; it has been progressing satisfactorily, and is now nearly completed. From this improvement the public in general will be much benefited.

Population.

There is no sensible change on this head as compared with last year.

Wages.

The rate of wages has in no respects varied from the usual remuneration, while the metairie system has greatly increased, and is found to work to the mutual advantage and profit of employer and employed.

Education.

A classical seminary, which had been provided for by a joint resolution of the Legislature granting the sum of 300*l.* sterling annually for its support, was opened in March, on the arrival of the Rev. Mr. De Jouc, as principal; and, although it has experienced the liberal encouragement of the Legislature in the purchase of mathematical instruments, books, &c., to a large amount, yet I cannot avoid expressing my opinion, that the institution in question is not commensurate with the views, nor calculated to suit either the present position or state of society in this colony, constituted as it now is; and that a school of less pretending character would have been more suitable, in which a plain English education might be taught, including, of course, the usual general rudiments of instruction.

Independent of other circumstances, there are not a sufficient number of youths to be found in this colony of that class whose parents could afford to place them in such an establishment.

It was anticipated that a number of youths from the neighbouring colonies would have entered it; but the climate of Dominica having the character of being insalubrious, may possibly have had the effect of prejudicing parents and guardians against this course.

The French Catholic seminary, under the direction of the Abbé Capoulade, is progressing towards completion, and I have no doubt will meet with that success which its founder anticipates.

The schools for primary education, under the Wesleyan mission and French Catholics, are, in regard to their limited mode of instruction, well attended.

While upon this subject, I would beg to observe to your Excellency that there is but one clergyman of the Established Church stationed in the colony, and his duties are of that various and arduous nature, as to render it impossible he could devote even a portion of his time to this object. I would therefore recommend, that a member of the Church Missionary Society should be added to this establishment. I observe several appointments of this nature have been made in Trinidad, all of which have been attended with the most beneficial results.

Health.

The colony in general has been remarkably healthy, and the labouring population has become more cleanly in proportion as they advance in European civilization, habits, and industry.

Militia.

This force, which was embodied during the late outbreak, continues organized; I do not, however, consider it in its present state as by any means an efficient force. But as a new Act to repeal the present Militia Act is in progress, by which the law respecting qualification will be amended, I am led to hope the corps will be placed on a better footing, and commensurate with the political and relative domestic condition of the people.

Legislative Enactments.

In reference to the laws, her Majesty in Council has sanctioned four new Acts, passed by the Legislature, while others yet await the Royal Assent.

Crimes and Offences.

Judging from the general calendar in respect of infractions of the laws, assaults, petty thefts, and minor offences, are comparatively few, while cases meriting more serious inquiry are seldom heard of in this island.

From the annual gaol report I find much improvement has been effected for the convenience and comfort of the prisoners, as well as some necessary repairs, and measures adopted towards its cleanliness and salubrity.

I regret, however, to observe that much remains to be done with regard to its general improvement, and that a proper locality has not been provided for the accommodation of lunatics, from a want of the necessary funds.

In the early part of the year a chaplain was appointed to perform Divine service in the gaol, and who regularly attends every Sunday for that purpose.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The infirmary or almshouse for the relief of the indigent and infirm, and for which the colony is indebted to the liberality of Alexander Dalrymple, Esq., a merchant of the island, is by no means adequate to meet the demands of the numerous applicants for admission. Hence some available source of assistance is requisite.

Independent of this establishment, agreeably to a "Statute for the Relief of the Poor," a weekly allowance is granted in every case of destitution, indigence, or casual necessity, as also to the wants of strangers, and the affording decent interment where there is just cause to believe the deceased or his relatives were in such indigent circumstances as to require it.

On a recapitulation of the various points herein adverted to, as regards the present state and condition of the colony, I may venture to conclude that the island in general is in a peaceful and prosperous condition.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. MACDONALD, Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency Charles Cunningham, Lieut.-Governor,
Administering the General Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 13.) No. 23. No. 23.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE to Lieut.-Governor CUNNINGHAM.

SIR, Downing-street, May 25, 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, Dominica, No. 4, of the 7th April, together with the Report therein enclosed from Lieut.-Governor Macdonald, to accompany the Blue Book for 1845.

I concur with your own views and those of Lieut.-Governor Macdonald, as to the claim of the lower classes to the establishment of schools suitable for their condition at the public expense, being preferable to that of the higher classes to be so assisted in the establishment of classical seminaries, particularly when, as in the case of Dominica, there seems but little demand for the more expensive systems of education; and I do not doubt that the Lieut.-Governor will take any fit opportunity which may arise for impressing these views upon the Legislature.

I have directed an extract of so much of the Lieut.-Governor's Report as relates to the insufficiency of the establishment of clergy, to be communicated to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

Lieut.-Governor Cunningham,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

(No. 12.) No. 24. No. 24.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor CUNNINGHAM to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE, dated Government House, Antigua, March 11, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the island of Montserrat for the year 1845, together with a Report from Mr. President Baynes on the general state and prospects of the island.

Enclosure in No. 24. Encl. in No. 24.

Government House, Montserrat,
SIR, February 9, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the usual copies of the Blue Book for the last year, with my Report on the state of the island in duplicate.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD DACRES BAYNES, President.

His Excellency Charles Cunningham, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

Report to accompany the Blue Book for the year 1845.

HAVING been sufficiently explicit in my first annual report, sent from this Colony in the year 1841, I have since only found it requisite to refer to the different heads on which information is required in the Blue Book, confining myself to the particular state of each at the close of the year reported on, and indicating such changes as had already either actually taken place during its course, or might be reasonably anticipated. The two great measures, however—one of which, the remodelling of the judicial system, has been effected, and the other, the legislative union with Antigua, of which the foundation has been laid during the foregone year—changes that will not only affect the administration of the law, but in all probability materially vary the laws themselves,—seem to make a recapitulation of the general condition of the island not unadvisable at a juncture so important to it. Such a review will, as far as it is carried, serve as well to show what is defective, and merely requires amendment, as what is altogether wanting in the existing institutions, and thus facilitate the formation of a correct opinion as to the extent to which it will be necessary to assimilate them to those obtaining in Antigua.

Judicial establishment.

The reform of the judicial establishment is a measure, the necessity of which has been felt for years, and to which the reluctance of the local Legislature to provide the funds requisite for its support has long been the only obstacle. The defects of the late forensic form, the inconveniences entailed on the public owing to the general absence of legal knowledge, and the consequently numerous errors in cases of the highest importance committed under it, would be incredible, could they not be attested by the whole community. I do not think it out of place to state for his Lordship's information a fact that took place soon after my arrival, sufficiently indicative of the evils of a system from which I trust we here, at least, shall be entirely delivered. In April, 1842, a man was arraigned in the Court of Queen's Bench for a burglary, the only evidence against him was his wife. One or two preliminary questions having been put to her by the late law officer of the Crown, that gentleman observed that as she was his only witness he would drop the case. There being thus no evidence against the prisoner he, of course, was not called on for a defence, and was entitled to his immediate discharge. But the Bench submitted the case to the jury without any intimation to them that they should return a *pro formâ* verdict of not guilty. A verdict of guilty was brought in, and judgment of death actually recorded against a man who had not been tried. It is needless to say that he received a free pardon, but not until he had sustained a long imprisonment. This case was duly brought by me at the time to the notice of his Excellency, Sir Charles FitzRoy, and no doubt must have shown him the necessity of the change which is now being carried into effect.

I think it would be a great improvement were the offices of sole justice and that of vice-chancellor not united as they are in the present arrangement, especially as owing to the abolition of the Court of Error, and the restriction of appeal to the Queen in Council, to cases in which the amount contested is 300*l.* or upwards, the parties discontented with the decision of A. B., sole justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, have, under the large sum mentioned, no other remedial course than an appeal to the same A. B., as vice-chancellor, which, different as the two Courts are in their nature, jurisdiction, and in the grounds on which they base their decisions, does not appear to me an adequate security against inconveniences that may possibly ensue from the identity of the judge, who may not always be sufficiently discretive in his analysis of the separate jurisdictions combined in his person, when the question is whether he shall rescind or confirm his own previously delivered judgment. This objection may in part be obviated by providing that the Governor shall act as heretofore in the capacity of chancellor, having the chief justice as his assessor.

Union with Antigua.

The incorporation of the legislature of this island, so deliberately approved, and so urgently called for by both houses of the Legislature in their respective resolutions of the 8th of April, and the 15th of August last, will, if carried out with due consideration for the interests of this Colony, be equally beneficial with, and is scarcely less needed than the amendment of the judicial institutions. An island counting a population not greatly above 7000 souls, and, with the exception of a few public officers, professional persons, storekeepers, and inferior tradesmen, purely agricultural, which produces little, and presents scarcely any prospect of acquiring wealth, is not likely to abound in material suited to a constitution on the model of that of the mother country. Hence the defects and evils set forth in the resolution of the two houses praying for the union with Antigua, which, from its greater wealth, population, and importance as the seat of the general government, is not open to the same objection. This island, whilst it finds it perhaps difficult to keep up in their present strength a sufficiently respectable legislature of its own, will not be at a loss for an adequate number of suitable persons to represent its interests in Antigua. The existence of an executive council here, unembarrassed by the apathy, the reluctance, or the dissensions for ever standing in the way at present, of useful legislation, will have the opportunity of submitting their views for the benefit of the country in a quarter which will at least be free from the principal objections they have themselves recorded against their own legislature.

Legislature.

The indifference of the present legislative bodies to objects of the highest importance, may be collected from the following list of laws which are not in existence in the island:

A contract law (as regards the relations of master and servant).
An Act for the relief of insolvent debtors.
A police law (lately expired, aud not yet renewed),
An Act to regulate the elective franchise.

An Act for the repair and preservation of the roads.
An Act raising the usual supplies to meet the public exigencies, now nearly two years in arrear.
An Act for the creation of savings banks and the protection of friendly, mutual benefit, and other similar societies.
An Act for keeping the streets of the town clean.
A quarantine law.
A militia law.
An Act for educational purposes.

A bill for the prevention of cruelty to animals has lately passed both Houses, but not yet received the assent of the executive. This is the only Act of importance, in addition to the Judicial Bill, that has gone through the legislature during the course of the year.

Militia.

Acting on the suggestion of his Lordship the Secretary for the Colonies, I procured a Bill which appeared to me in accordance with his Lordship's views on the establishment of a militia force, to be brought in by Mr. Queen's Counsel Semper, a member of Assembly; but as the measure had not been entertained in Antigua, the House, on the plea of being desirous that the Legislature of that island should take the initiative, postponed the consideration of the Bill, and it is still lying on the table. I am of opinion that it is highly expedient that a constitutional force of this description should be brought into existence, on the plan, as far as the material to be found in the island will admit, proposed by his Lordship; the liabllity to serve depending on pecuniary qualification, and having rather the appearance of a privilege than of an obligation. I consider that an efficient but necessarily small body raised on this principle may be readily organized in Montserrat. There are not more than 150 freeholders, and 230 householders in this island; but there exists, in addition, a number of managers and overseers of estates, clerks, and other young men in families, persons peculiarly available for this service. I therefore apprehend no difficulty in raising a force, proportionate to the size of the island, at once sufficiently strong and respectable to meet his Lordship's views. These classes appear to me not only willing, but anxious to serve; nor would, I am sure, the mass of the peasantry refuse to come forward, if called on to co-operate in forming a defensive force for the actual protection of the country from a foreign enemy. Under any other circumstances I should not deem it expedient to require their services.

The hesitation of the Legislature to raising a militia, until the measure be forced upon them, seems chiefly to arise from two causes, one, a reluctance to provide the funds for the arming and equipping the force, the other an unreasonable jealousy, not yet eradicated, of the coloured classes, from whom it must of necessity be partly officered. It may be observed in reply to the first, that the indispensable expense of establishing and maintaining a militia would in reality be but trifling, and would be limited to the providing of uniforms, perhaps, to some of the poorer privates, the repairs of the arms at present in store, and the purchasing of a few more. With reference to the second objection, it appears to me that in the present social relations of the West Indies, immense advantages would result from accustoming the white and coloured portions of the population to act in concert, and on equal terms, in an object of so much vital importance to each, as the prospective, or actual defence of their common country. The occasional musters, which under ordinary circumstances, should not exceed 12 during the year, would present excellent points of re-union for this desirable end, as well as serve to forward the gradual amalgamation of both classes in equal social intercourse, towards which desirable consummation, little or nothing has yet been effected in any part of the West Indies.

Taxation.

No bill of any description for raising money has been passed during the foregone year, notwithstanding the assistance which the country has received from the loan granted by Government. The public creditor is in consequence again 18 months in arrear. This is a standing evil, and one of the strongest arguments in favour of a Legislative connexion with the more punctual island of Antigua, the finances of which are in a flourishing condition, and its public exigencies regularly provided for. The only sources of revenue during the last year have been the new Tariff, which has produced 1,546*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, the imperial customs duties, which are devoted to, and more than the whole of which is absorbed by the support of the poor, licences to sell wine and spirits, and some few fines levied in force of various acts, which taken altogether, do not amount to half of the expenditure.

New tariff.

Revenue and expenditure.

In consequence of no annual Levy Bill having passed the Revenue of 1845 has fallen, notwithstanding the receipts under the new Tariff, considerably short of the year preceding it, whilst there has been, owing to the sums expended in the repairs of the roads and public buildings, a great increase in the expenditure.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
In 1844 the total revenue amounted to . .	2821	10	5
In 1845 „ „ to . .	2142	18	3
Decrease	678	12	2
The expenditure in 1844 was . . .	3751	14	6
„ „ 1845 . . .	5068	0	$7\frac{3}{4}$
Increase	1316	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Excess of expenditure over revenue of 1845 .	2924	12	$4\frac{1}{4}$

The cost of the new judicial arrangements which have not yet come into operation will cause an additional expense hereafter of 500*l.*, a small price for the acquisition of so great a benefit. The tariff, though generally lower than those of the neighbouring islands, has answered the

MONTSERRAT.

expectations formed of it, and on several articles might be advantageously raised so as to meet the future increased expenditure.

Exports and imports.

Notwithstanding that, owing to a very unfavourable season, there has been a serious decrease of exports, there is still a small increase in the imports over those of the prior year. The exports stand respectively thus, with regard to the staple produce:

1844.

Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.
1103 hogsheads.	75 puncheons.	60 puncheons.

1845.

777 hogsheads.	316 puncheons.	36 puncheons.

VALUE OF EXPORTS.

1845 . £18,925. 12*s*. 1844 . £26,724 5*s*. Decrease . £7798 13*s*.

VALUE OF IMPORTS.

1845 . £26,275 15*s*. 2*d*. 1844 . £25,994 10*s*. Increase £6281 14*s*. 9*d*.

The increase of the chief export, sugar, since 1839, with the exception of the year 1843, when the crops sustained great injury from the awful visitation that took place on the 8th February, and of the last year during which the seasons have been very unfavourable, though both still afforded an average return, has been gradual and steady, and attests, with the equally steadily-increasing imports, the continued improvement and augmented prosperity of all classes of the community.

EXPORTS OF SUGAR.

1839, reduced to hogsheads . . .	818
1840, „ . . .	933
1841, for nine months only . . .	900
1842, „ . . .	1154
1843, year of the earthquake . . .	817
1844, „ . . .	1103
1845, „ . . .	777

Tonnage.

The comparative tonnage in and out for the two years has been—

1844.

Tonnage inwards	5446
„ outwards	5264

1845.

Tonnage inwards	5266
„ outwards	5230

Population.

The results of the census taken in June, 1844, were, as I have reported in my Despatch on the subject, satisfactory in the highest degree. They prove the fact that population has increased since the emancipation in 1834, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and will consequently, progressing at the same rate, double itself in about 16 years, a more certain and

Immigration.

more profitable source of augmentation of number than any system of immigration that can be devised; and free from the insuperable objection accompanying the influx into newly and not yet perfectly Christianized countries (for such are the West Indies with regard to the black population), of races whether African or Asiatic, imbued with all the abominations of the most disgusting and degrading superstitions which afflict the human family. It should not be forgotten that Myalism and other ethnic and barbarian practices are by no means extinct in these colonies. Is it safe to bring the unwearied proselyte of true religion into proximity with this contagious virus, the lurking remains of which are not yet eradicated from their hearts, and want only a spark to be re-kindled? I doubt whether an augmentation of labour from such sources be beneficial to individuals; I know that it is hostile to the general interests of humanity.

Yet these are the only sources from which immigration can be obtained without a fearful sacrifice of life, English, Irish, and German peasants have all been tried in turn, and all have in succession proved totally unsuited to the labour of the cane-field. They have been swept off, wherever located, at the rate of at least 80 per cent. Before I left Jamaica in the beginning of 1841, that island had incurred the expense of 50,000*l*. for large importations of labourers of this description. I do not think I exaggerate in saying that not one hundred of these unfortunate beings were in existence when I quitted the island. Occasional stragglers, helpless and worn out, were met on the public roads, or found in the hospitals, and a few half-starved women with some sickly children were all that remained in the villages and hamlets established, on their arrival, for their abodes.

Emigration.

But if the advantages of immigration to these colonies be still a subject of doubt, there can be no dispute with regard to the disadvantages of emigration from any of them. It robs the fields of their cultivators, enhances the price of labour, makes nugatory the benefits of a native

increase of population, renders landlords timid, and prevents them, for fear of provoking a still greater efflux, from relinquishing the pervalent pernicious custom of tenancy at will, for the natural and profitable practice of granting leases, and obtaining rent. From this little colony, the resident population of which in 1844 amounted to 7365, not less than 2307 adults have emigrated to Trinidad, British Guiana, and other places, since the 1st of August, 1838. There are two vessels from this port continually employed in this intercourse between this place and Trinidad, in which island a premium of 16 dollars is paid on each labourer imported. It has come to my knowledge that much fraud has been committed by the captains or owners of these vessels. Persons are taken to, brought back from, and retaken to Trinidad, and this process has been repeated over and over again, with the same individual. Even boys have been dressed up as, and made to pass for women, for the same deceptious purpose. It surely would be desirable to check, if possible, a practice by which one island is so seriously injured, and the other so grossly defrauded.

Education.

In consequence of the changes that have taken place with regard to the officiating ministers, I have been unable to obtain a correct return of the number receiving instruction. Owing, however, to the establishing of a new school by the Wesleyans, I have reason to believe that there has been an increase, though not such as to enable me to make a favourable report on the progress of education. Since the supports of the Mico Charity has been withdrawn, the numbers attending schools, whether private or public, have greatly decreased. There can be no doubt that this result is mainly owing to the apathy that pervades the Legislature on the subject, who, under the pretext of inability from poverty, a plea, which, if we consider how small the grant necessary to effect a vast amount of good, and what large sums are constantly voted for objects comparatively trivial, can only be regarded as a veil to indifference, decline, though I lose no opportunity of bringing the subject under their consideration, to vote the smallest grant for educational purposes. It seems to be the general impression that it is the duty of the people to provide for the instruction of their own families, and so without doubt it is; but it is no less incumbent on the Legislature to point out the way, and afford facilities for their doing so at a moderate cost. Unhappily, the mass of the population is as little inclined to help themselves, as their superiors are to assist them, and will not on their part make the least pecuniary sacrifice for conferring on their offspring this inestimable blessing, although they are not so insensible to its benefits as not readily to embrace every opportunity of gratuitous instruction for their children when it can be obtained. The few schools we have are entirely supported from funds furnished by the bishop of the diocese, and by the Ladies' Society at home, and are quite inadequate to the wants of the population. I have given, and shall continue to give, my best attention, and to use my strongest efforts in endeavouring to carry into effect the valuable suggestions conveyed in the recent excellent Despatch from his Lordship the Secretary for the Colonies on this paramountly interesting subject. The attendance in the years 1843 and 1844 was—

1843.	Day scholars, Established Church . .	519
	Sunday scholars, ditto . .	441
	Wesleyans, day scholars	268
	Ditto, Sunday scholars	254
	Total . .	1482
1844.	Day scholars, Established Church . .	473
	Sunday scholars, ditto . .	530
	Wesleyan, day scholars	..
	Ditto, Sunday scholars	80
	Total . .	1083
1845.	Approximate calculation	1250

Ecclesiastical.

Neither is the ecclesiastical strength of this island at present, nor has it been for some time past, on a par with its population, or adequate to its spiritual necessities.

There are three churches and two chapels of the establishment, but we remain with only two clergymen, one of whom is not in priests' orders, to celebrate divine service, and to administer the sacraments whilst the places of worship, with the exception of two in this parish, are too remote from each other to admit of attendance on each in the course of the same day. A Roman Catholic and a Wesleyan chapel, the latter attended by a numerous, and the former by a small congregation, offer the only remaining means of religious instruction to the inhabitants.

Mutual Benefit Society.

There was a Mutual Benefit Society in this island, to which I have referred in former Reports. I say there was, for I regret to observe that since the death of its founder, the Rev. Mr. Collins, late rector of this parish, the funds of this society have been unaccountably and inexcusably mismanaged. In two years that have elapsed since that gentleman's decease, the funds have diminished from 300*l.* in hand to about 130*l.* of doubtful debt, during the whole of which time no meeting of the Committee or subscribers had taken place until one was called last week at my request. The state of the society was brought under my cognizance some time since, when on a ride in the country, by a poor decrepid object, who had entirely lost the use of his lower extremities, and was unable to come to town to prefer his complaint. He informed me that he and his wife, who is bedridden, were subscribers, and as long as they were

MONTSERRAT.

able to work had made the customary monthly payments, amounting to a large sum; that at length they fell ill, first his wife, then himself, and had received a small allowance up to the date of Mr. Collin's death; since which neither he nor his wife had been able to obtain any assistance whatever, though they were in a state of utter destitution, and almost starving. He had made, he said, reiterated applications to the treasurer of the institution, who paid not the least attention to his representations. The man's statements were verified at an examination which I directed to be taken by the stipendiary, to whom the complainant said he had before made his case known without success, and another magistrate. Conceiving it to be my duty to do all in my power to redress so cruel a grievance, I addressed a letter to the treasurer, whose reply being neither conclusive nor satisfactory, I procured, not without much difficulty, one of the committee to call a meeting of the subscribers, at which it turned out that there were no funds in the hands of the treasurer, and that all the remaining effects of the society consisted in the debts mentioned above. Thus this institution, which promised, and had actually effected so much good under the superintendence of Mr. Collins, and to which the industrious poor had contributed so largely, has been suffered, to the cruel injury of the subscribers, ignorant, friendless, and many of them infirm persons, within two years after the death of the late rector, to fall into utter decay. I have requested on the part of the above-mentioned complainant, and of others who have since appealed to me, to be allowed to inspect the books and accounts of the society, but in this object I have not yet been able to succeed. The law officer of the Crown has undertaken to do his best to recover, for the use of the unfortunate subscribers, the outstanding debts, which are for money improperly, I think, lent out at interest to persons comparatively well off, who refuse or evade repayment, I have brought this untoward circumstance to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor, and, at his Excellency's suggestion, have also submitted it to the legislative bodies, with the view of obtaining the protection of the law for future similar societies that may be established in this island, and for the regulation and control of the present, should it, which does not appear probable, be found practible to continue it.

There are no savings' banks in this island; and it is to be feared the manner in which the affairs of the benefit society have been misconducted will effectually, for a long time, prevent the establishment of these useful institutions.

Wages.

Wages are, I believe, considerably lower here than in any other of our colonies in these seas. The average rate is 1*s.* currency, or about 5½*d* sterling per diem. As the number of days' work given in the week rarely amounts to, and never exceeds, five, we have only 2*s.* 3½*d.* for the weekly wages of a labourer. The price of bread is 4*d.* per pound. Thus the receipts of a whole week will not quite afford a pound of bread for each of the seven days, and are quite inadequate to supply the additional wants of clothing and other domestic requisites. When I mention this fact, I do not wish it to be understood that the labourer in Montserrat receives an insufficient return for his services; I, on the contrary, consider him amply remunerated; but in place of the payment being made in money, it is given in a shape calculated, instead of eliciting the greatest quantity of labour, to depress it to a minimum, and in consequence is as hostile to the interests of the proprietor, and as adverse to production, as can well be imagined. The inadequacy of wages in money is more than made up to the labourer by permission to occupy a cottage, and to cultivate as much ground, as a tenant-at-will, rent-free, as he may think proper; from which he obtains, not twice or thrice only, but often many times the amount of the wages he receives in money. It consequently happens, that his wants being provided for beforehand, there is a total absence of that chief and sometimes sole incentive to industry—the necessity of providing for daily sustenance. There is scarcely anything more materially prejudicial to the interests of the West India proprietory body than the evil effects of this system, which, evident as they are at present, will be experienced with vastly increased force should the protecting duties be further reduced or altogether removed. The cost of cultivation in this island is equivalent to rather more than half of the produce. What practicable scope, what elasticity of pressure, in the event of such change, will be left to the proprietor of proportionally reducing, in order to meet the decreased value of produce, the money wages of 2*s.* 3½*d.* per week paid by him at present? or how, at the very moment of the crisis, does he propose to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the peasantry, all at once, after a semi-prescriptive possession of many years, the justice and necessity of his resorting to the novel, and to them not easily definable or readily intelligible, alternative of payment of rent or ejectment? He will then, there can be no doubt, in addition to his other embarrassments, find himself entangled in the dilemma of being unable, on the one hand, from the indepressibly lower rate of wages in money, to reduce them to the level of the prices in the market, or, on the other, of compensating, in time to meet this emergency, the diminution in price by a proportionate return in the shape of rent. This will certainly be the case in Montserrat, and in all the other islands in which this evil exists, combined, as it is here, with a low rate of wages.

Tenancy at will,

Evils of.

This practice is scarcely less unfavourable to the labourer than to the landlord: it is opposed to a feeling of independence, is a lingering vestige of slavery, and consequently detrimental to his social advance. It is useless, wherever this practice prevails, to look for steady and continuous labour; the labourer's first thought and chief concern are in the cultivation of his provision ground, which, in this island, he occupies *ad libitum*, and for which he makes no return to his landlord, but, on the contrary, subtracts from the labour that under a better arrangement he would be obliged to afford him in order to obtain the means of meeting his rent. If the tenant paid a fixed and moderate sum for the tenements occupied by him, the proprietor would receive in rent what he would lose in labour, and would soon find the profit

arising from a negro village a source of regular income to him, in addition to the produce of his estate, and one more independent of bad seasons and other prejudicial contingencies, which so often distressingly blight the hopes of the agriculturists. This system reverses the natural order of labour and payment, and removes instead of applying a stimulus to cultivation.

Nor does it avail to say that the inadequacy of wages in money is thus only made up; for by this custom the landlord loses not only his rent, but also the labour he could purchase with it. It is equally in vain that he thus reduces his outlay in money for the payment of his people, if he lose, as he does, vastly more than its equivalent in labour. As may also be expected, the labourer affords his employer the least possible quantity of work that he calculates from experience to be sufficient to free him from the danger of ejectment. He finds on comparison that the time given to his master is expended less profitably to himself than that bestowed on the piece of land he cultivates for his own use, and, acting accordingly, devotes to his own grounds the labour that the interests of the proprietary and the general welfare of the community require to be given to the production of the staple exports.

To this mistake in so essential a point is in great part to be attributed the general decrease of West India produce since the termination of the apprenticeship. Not the least of the benefits that would result from abandoning this course, and adopting that of renting or leasing their tenements to the present tenants-at-will, would be the effectual stop it would put to emigration. Tenants for fixed periods, not being subject to arbitrary extrusion at the pleasure of the landlord, would soon become attached to their homesteads, and would not without difficulty be induced to relinquish present and assured advantages for specious contingencies, or delusive speculations.

Even the power of ejectment which the landlord holds *in terrorem* in his hands is generally found to be ineffectual. The want of capital often combines with other causes to depress the labour market; it is not, in fact, so much the labour as the means to keep it at home, and to call it out, that are deficient. On some properties the labourers are kept several months in arrear with their wages, and under such circumstances it is alike useless to expect labour, or to attempt eviction; on all properties in this island, as if by some tacit compact, only a part of the members of each family will give their services to the proprietor, though all enjoy the use of his house and land on his estate, whilst he is debarred from resorting to the ejectment of those who do not work for fear of giving umbrage to those who do, and provoking them to remove their domicile and carry their labour elsewhere.

Non-residents.

Another evil in these islands is, the non-residence of proprietors, and the consequent intrusting of their interests to persons who, however qualified in other respects, having generally separate views of their own, do not, nor is it to be expected that they should, concern themselves as entirely and as warmly in the success of their charge as would the owner himself were he present. There is a further objection to the well-doing of properties managed by attorneys. They have frequently the care of 20 or 30 estates, comprising many thousands of acres, and situated in parts remote from each other. How small a share of an attention thus necessarily sub-divided can be allotted to each property? The difference between estates managed or resided on by their owners, and those conducted by attorneys, whether it regards the expense of cultivation, or the return of produce, is scarcely credible to those who have not witnessed it.

In the smaller islands these extended attorneyships are still more inconvenient than in the larger. Gentlemen having the management of a great number of properties necessarily possess, through the numerous persons in their employ, especially in those Colonies in which the representative form prevails, an influence which enables them to thwart, and which is not unfrequently used for that purpose, the wisest schemes of the Government, whether local or imperial, that they believe in any way opposed to their particular interests. The best, perhaps the only effectual remedy for this ill, for it is one, would be the consolidation of the minor legislatures into one general government. The apathy with which the public affairs are often regarded, the hopeless postponement or total neglect of useful legislation, the delay from month to month, perhaps from year to year, in raising the supplies, so harassing and so unjust to gentlemen holding official situations, and to other public creditors, render some constitutional change in the government of these minor Colonies not an object of mere prospective advantage, but of immediate urgency. Under a centralized government, such local powers or prejudices, as well as overgrown and adventitious influence, would, in a great measure, be absorbed, and they would possess in a general legislature only as much weight as would render them useful to the common welfare, instead of being destructive, as they often are at present, of that of particular communities.

Metayer system.

The metayer, or, as it is called in Italy where it prevails generally, the metà system has not been tried in this island. It is subject to great and peculiar disadvantages long since pointed out by Arthur Young, and is, I think, still less suitable to the West Indies and the negro than to France and Italy and a European population. It is said, however, to have succeeded partially in Jamaica, probably only on comparing it with systems worse than itself.

Agriculture.

Great advantages would, I am convinced, attend the cultivation in the British West Indies, not on a partial, but on a large scale, as staple exports, of many of the other productions of tropical climates, in addition to that of sugar and coffee. Refreshed by the sea breeze, visited by periodical rains, intersected by lofty mountains, these islands blessed by nature with a climate, the medium temperature of which is greatly lower than that of most other countries situated in the same latitudes, are well adapted for the culture of many of the products of the southern portion of Europe. Not a few have been already successfully tried, either as luxuries for the use of the table, or by way of experiment of the fitness of the soil to their growth; and there can be no doubt that they would long since, but for the vastly greater profits derived

MONTSERRAT.

from sugar, have become objects of extensive exportation. Indeed, such was the case previously to the introduction of the cane, and its fatal concomitant, the importation of slaves from Africa. These former sources of profit gave way to the present staple; indigo and cochineal have been superseded by sugar; why not, in the present critical state of the sugar trade, revert to them again, or to cotton and tobacco? As population increases (and it has already increased in much greater degree than is generally believed) the price of labour will fall; and all these articles may from year to year be gradually more and more successfully cultivated. Coffee is grown only on a small scale, and cocoa scarcely at all, in our islands. Montserrat, which produces the best coffee in the West Indies, though not at present sufficient even for internal consumption, might be made to export it in considerable quantity. It is certain that the soil of this island, though its sugars are of a superior quality, yields but scantily, and might be profitably applied to many other productions, to which it is quite as well, or even better suited, and of which it would afford more abundant returns. For instance, the olive, which will only flourish in medium climates, would, I have no doubt, prosper in the mountainous districts of this and other West Indian islands. Indeed, a gentleman of Guadaloupe, whom I met on board one of the steamers, told me that he raised the olive on a mountain estate, and had several trees which produced a large and rich fruit. This tree is well known for its vivacious poperties. A junk cut from any part of the root will grow after being exposed for months. There would therefore be little trouble or cost in its transport. It has already been satisfactorily proved that the vine thrives in the West Indies. Grapes are daily served at table in some of the islands as large, as juicy, and as saccharine as those of France or Italy, The light and volcanic soil of Montserrat bears a close resemblance to that of some of the most fertile vitiferous districts in Sicily.

Indigo and Cochineal.

Cotton and Tobacco.

The Olive.

The efforts to introduce the silk worm into the Colony, are said to have failed. I doubt much whether it has had a fair trial. The like ill success accompanied the first attempt to rear the worm in Guadaloupe, the climate of which is in every respect similar to this; but gave way to perseverance and attention. The bad quality of the eggs seems to have been in both instances the cause of failure. They were procured from various quarters, and had perhaps been injured in the transmission, or were too old; a small portion only was hatched, which produced a sickly worm, which rarely lived to form a cocoon. In Guadaloupe the difficulty was finally overcome, and a healthy breed at length obtained, which have perpetuated their race, and now produce silk of a singularly fine quality. Patience and persistence would, there is little doubt, be attended with similar results in other quarters. As for the mulberry, three species of this plant, the morus multicaulis, the Philippine, and the white, flourish in Montserrat, as well as if they had been indigenous productions of the country.

Progress of the emancipated population.

It followed as a necessary consequence on the emancipation of the negro population from the debasing yoke of slavery, that their character and habits should rapidly and permanently improve; they have done so in this island since 1838, even to a greater extent in so short a space, than could have been previously anticipated, although from local causes, amongst which the principal seems to be that at the termination of the apprenticeship, the population of this, and the smaller islands, had not advanced in equal proportion with those of the larger, wealthier, more populous and better frequented, so that being behind hand when the great change took place, they have not yet been able to attain the level of their brethren more fortunately circumstanced. Still similar results, though on a smaller scale, have taken place here, and the progress has not only been visible, but great. Baptism and marriage have become general. Churches and chapels are densely attended; a stronger sense of propriety is discernible in their language and manners, and more decency manifested in their apparel, dwellings and domestic arrangements. Courtesy at least among themselves, seems to be a general trait in the negro character; the very lowest scrupulously address each other as Sir, or Ma-am, and even domestics require from their fellows, the urbane prefix to their names of Mr. Mrs. or Miss, as the case may be.

Great crimes have, at least since my residence in this island, been unknown among the emancipated population. It would be expecting more from them than is found among long civilized races, to look for similar infrequency with regard to minor and trivial offences. The morbid taint of slavery is not yet completely worked out, and some of the vices consequent on civilization have perhaps supervened. The negro in this island scarcely ever commits a burglary, or a theft accompanied with violence. I wish I could say, with equal truth, that he is not generally addicted to pilfering, and in particular to appropriating to himself the produce of his master's fields; these he seems to consider a sort of common property, from which he has a right to help himself, and he accordingly never scruples to do so, to an extent scarcely credible, both in the raw and manufactured state. When I say that a tenth of every crop is thus consumed, I am convinced that I underrate the loss thus occasioned to the proprietor. It is with equal regret that I also add that the emancipated population, though perfectly conscious of the benefits of freedom, appear to me either little grateful for the great boon they have received, or insensible of the vast debt which they owe to their white fellow citizens, whom they do not appear to regard with a favourable eye, notwithstanding that in no part of the world do the lower orders enjoy greater comfort or liberty, or are treated with more kindness. The negro is not grateful, either because the remembrance of former wrongs cannot be entirely effaced from the mind of the late slave, or because he is not yet sufficiently enlightened to perceive that gratitude is due even for the disinterested restoration of a natural right, or perhaps from both these reasons combined; and he is envious of the white man, partly from a jealousy of race, and partly from seeing him the sole proprietor of the land in a country in which his own people predominate in number in the proportion of forty to one. Time, wise and equal legislation, common pursuits and a common interest, may mitigate in the present, and in the

succeeding generation perhaps entirely extinguish these feelings. They are certainly discernible.

If, on the whole, the progress made by the late slave has been great and satisfactory in this island, in the larger, it has been vastly more extensive and rapid. New towns have been founded in most of the colonies. Chapels—Wesleyan, Baptist, and Moravian, towards which the Legislatures have, in some instances, refused to contribute—have been erected at the expense of the negroes. Societies, agricultural, and even scientific institutions, in the days of slavery beyond the aim, and even the hope of the white planter, are now flourishing by the exertions and contributions of blacks. Land in the neighbourhood of towns, or in new settlements, have risen in value to 50*l*., 80*l*., or even 100*l*. sterling per acre. Many black men have in every colony become freeholders and electors. In this island, a late slave has been elected a member of the House of Assembly, and manifested his moderation by not taking his seat. Population is augmenting in such a ratio, that in some of the islands it will double itself in sixteen, in almost all, except those already densely peopled, in the course of twenty years, and thus render immigration not only unnecessary, but positively pernicious. The description of their furniture, the comfort of their houses, the quality of their dress, and of their food, have improved on a par with the various rates of wages prevailing in the different Colonies. Imports of the necessaries, conveniences, and even luxuries of life have increased in proportion with the augmented means of the masses; and the blessings of education and liberal legislation are gradually diffusing themselves, and they warrant the sanguine anticipation of advance in the social scale in a still greater ratio of the rising generation. Time only, the grand maturing and developing agent of the powers of the human intellect is wanting, as from the progress already made, we are justified in confidently hoping, for the satisfactory solution of the question, as to the natural equality of the white and black races of mankind.

It should be kept in mind, that the emancipation of her slaves by Great Britain was wrought not by commercial or agricultural speculation, for the purpose of gain, but disinterestedly, and at a prodigious cost to her, for the redress of an enormous wrong, by religious and philanthropic conviction. An intrinsic and conscientious sense of right was the weight in the balance, and if other advantages were found incompatible, or could not be made concomitant with the primary object in view, they were not, however desirable in themselves, to be for that reason permitted to act as a counterpoise in the opposite scale. Happily, there is not the slightest ground for doubting the ultimate achievement of these secondary ends also.

EDWARD DACRES BAYNES, President.

P.S. In referring to the Judicial Act lately passed, I have noticed the union of the jurisdictions of Sole Judge and Vice-Chancellor as an inconvenience. I may be wrong; but it appears to me that difficulties of a serious or scarcely superable nature may present themselves in conducting a suit in Chancery under the new arrangement, by which the office of Vice-Chancellor is vested in a professional gentleman necessarily resident in another island, who is expressly appointed to hear and decide causes in that Court. His presence in Montserrat is required by the Act, only at the quarterly sessions of the Court of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas. Will it be necessary to defer the holding of the Court of Chancery to his periodical visits, or will he have to come down whenever the usual forms and process would require a Court were he resident in the island?

That subpœnas, injunctions, and other process may be issued by myself as Chancellor, I am aware; but I shall certainly, from a feeling of delicacy as regards myself, and of justice towards litigant parties, be extremely loth to hear and decide causes, unassisted as I now shall be by the members of the Council, when by doing so I shall deprive suitors of the advantage of the legal knowledge and professional experience of the Vice-Chancellor; yet in the case of an injunction granted, which may stop sales, prevent the departure of a ship laden with produce, or on any other urgent occasion, it will generally be found impossible for the Vice-Chancellor, even were he desirous of doing so, to reach Montserrat in time to decide on the affirmation or dissolution of the injunction before great loss and damage may be sustained by one of the parties interested. In the case of sugars for exportation, a delay of a whole twelvemonth may be caused, as two ships only leave this port for England during the year.

It seems to me that, if the presence of the Vice-Chancellor cannot be obtained when required, or if he is only to hear such points and cases as may be ripe to be brought before him at the time of his periodical visits, not only will the public receive no advantage from the change that has taken place, but will suffer extreme inconvenience from the alteration, which will only serve to render Chancery proceedings, already protracted and tedious to a proverb, all but interminable.

E. D. B.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 25. (No. 34.) No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor CUNNINGHAM to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Government-house, Antigua, May 22, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1845, accompanied by copy of a Report thereon furnished by Mr. President Drummond Hay.

I do not find either in the Blue Book itself, or the Report, much that appears to require comment from me. It is impossible to avoid noticing the confused and intricate character of the public accounts; but as this arises from the unsatisfactory condition of the financial affairs of the colony, which renders it necessary to grant negotiable acknowledgements of sums due to the public creditors in lieu of cash payments, it seems useless to direct particular attention to that point, until some prospect may be afforded of amelioration in regard to the sources of colonial revenue.

After all the repeated remonstrances which have been made to the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands, there appears even now but a very distant prospect of any effective arrangements being adopted for the purpose of paying off the long-standing arrears of the colonial debt. I trust, however, that at all events an effort towards that desirable end may be made by passing the Revenue and Appropriation Bills which are now under the consideration of the Assembly.

The moral and social condition of the mass of the population is, apparently, very satisfactory, as indicated by the infrequency of crime, and the efforts made by the peasantry to maintain the schools and ministers of the communion to which they, for the most part, belong.

I cordially join in the hope which Mr. President Hay is willing to cherish, that by the time it becomes necessary again to report on the situation and prospects of the Virgin Islands, their affairs may wear a more cheerful and encouraging aspect than can be ascribed to them with truth at the present moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. CUNNINGHAM, Lieut.-Governor,
Administering General Government.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 25.

Enclosure in No. 25.

SIR, Virgin Islands, Tortola, May 5, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands in triplicate for the year 1845.

The financial difficulties of the colony, I regret to say, continue to form the principal subject for observation.

The returns of Revenue indicate a partial improvement compared with those of 1844, but not to the extent anticipated in my Report, accompanying the Blue Book for the year. Expectations at that time founded on the belief that measures would ere long be carried, which would have secured the receipt of the legitimate amount of revenue, have been defeated through the rejection of those measures by the House of Assembly.

Half of the debt incurred in 1844, through the delay in passing the tax Acts, has, however, been paid off, and according to the note appended to the comparative statement of revenue, a small balance would appear to the credit of the Treasury, after the collection of the taxes due for the year.

Referring to the note appended to the comparative statement of the expenditure, it should be explained, that the total amount of liabilities incurred for the public service of the colony during the year has hitherto been returned as the actual expenditure, while in reality a portion only had for want of funds been paid within that period. Thus, although the expenditure in 1844, would appear from the returns to have been 2272*l.*, the amount actually paid was only 1522*l.*, leaving in December, 1844, the sum of 750*l.* sterling due to public creditors for that year, a moiety of which has, as before stated, been paid in 1845; and while the necessary expenditure of each of the two years appears to be nearly equal, the disbursements in 1845, in consequence of the increase of revenue, have exceeded those of the preceding year by 804*l.* sterling, a large difference when reference is had to the amounts of revenue and expenditure of the colony.

The resistance offered by the Assembly to the introduction of the measures proposed by me, early in 1845, for the improvement and protection of the revenue, and for the liquidation of the public debt, having rendered a dissolution of the House and a lengthened suspension of legislative proceedings necessary, little has been done by the Legislature during the year, a few Acts only of minor importance having been passed.

In my annual Reports, as well as elsewhere, the peculiar state of things in this colony, with regard to the difficulty of raising and collecting a sufficient revenue, has been pointed out.

The Virgin Islands have possessed the power of legislating for themselves since the year 1689, but no steps were taken to raise a regular revenue, till so late as 1832, when the first tax Act was passed, and the colony saddled with a debt of 10,000*l.* sterling, without any provision for its liquidation.

The financial difficulties of the colony, commencing at a time when it was, comparatively speaking, in prosperous condition, both with reference to the amount of floating and fixed capital in the country, and the number and intelligence of influential members of society, have increased as these became deficient.

Capital has been swept away in the devastations created by hurricanes, the colony remaining unassisted while to other colonies aid has been afforded under similar circumstances. Agriculture generally has suffered from these visitations and from successive years of drought.

Property is principally in the hands of the representatives of absentees and persons having no fixed interest in the country.

The geographical position and formation of the Virgin Islands, which caused them, in time of war, to be a rendezvous for shipping, then the means of drawing considerable wealth to the colony, are now serious drawbacks; the vicinity of the Virgin Island group to the neighbouring foreign colonies, and the features of their coasts through the facilities they afford to petty traders and smugglers, (and these may be said to be one and the same,) rendering futile, without more protection to trade and revenue than is now afforded by the local laws, any attempt by respectable capitalists to establish a well-regulated traffic. All classes of the community, indeed, have been more or less concerned in the evasion of the Revenue Laws.

The House of Assembly, with such influences at work, has hitherto entertained views on the subject of legislation in regard to revenue unfavourable to any active measures for improvement in this respect.

Amended Revenue Bills, similar to those to which I have referred as rejected in 1845, have been again, however, proposed to the Legislature, and are now before the House of Assembly, with, I am led to hope, a promise of better success.

These Bills, when passed, will, I anticipate, realize at least the amount of revenue calculated in my Report for 1844 as the income which should properly arise from taxes and duties, sufficient to give a surplus applicable to public improvements and to the gradual liquidation of the debt of the colony.

The returns under the head of Education show a fair proportion of children to be under instruction.

The grant by the colony in support of the Church and education has been liberal compared with its resources. The recent withdrawal of the Parliamentary grant in aid of education in the colonies does not materially affect the Virgin Islands, the amount latterly received from that source not having exceeded 20*l.* per annum.

The labouring population have evinced praiseworthy readiness to aid and assist in the erection of places of worship and schools; they are, for the most part, however, members of the Methodist congregations, to the maintenance and support of the missionaries of which persuasion stationed in the Virgin Islands they contribute very considerably, if not entirely.

Under the heads of imports and exports there appears an increase of the former by the amount of 1148*l.*, and of the latter of 1138*l.* in value. Returns under these heads, however, cannot, as before shown, be taken as a correct account of the state of trade in the Virgin Islands.

To take one item for an example: 725 head of cattle and live stock are returned as exported during the year, while the real number may fairly be assumed to have been at least double, if not treble, that amount. In about the same proportion may most other imports and exports be calculated, and an estimate formed of the amount of revenue of which the country is defrauded.

The increase of the value of exports in 1845 appears to be attributable entirely to the improvement in the sugar crops, occasioned by the comparatively favourable weather during part of the year.

I am not aware of any other points in these records requiring especial notice.

The people are contented and industrious. The colony is remarkably free from crime; the

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

average number of offenders in prison at any one time seldom exceeding four, and these, for the most part, convicted of offences which would ordinarily appear in a police sheet, while the gaol is sometimes even empty.

Landed property is unhappily much deteriorated in value; the loss of capital by hurricanes and the series of years of drought before alluded to being among the causes assignable.

Admitting these facts, sufficiently disheartening in themselves, the depressed state of the public credit, and the want of healthy energy, which have impeded the introduction of improvements in other branches of local economy, must also, in no unimportant degree, have contributed to affect the agricultural interests.

Direct benefit to these interests is beyond the control of local legislation, but much may be done for the ultimate restoration of energy and comparative prosperity to the colony generally, by rendering the proper resources of the country available through appropriate protection to revenue, drawing the local traffic into its legitimate channel, and thereby increasing the public credit and encouraging a general spirit of improvement in every branch of interest in the community; and I trust, before the period for the transmission of the annual returns again arrives, that measures tending to effect these improvements shall have been put into actual operation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

His Excellency C. T. Cunningham, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 26.

(No. 24.)

No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor C. CUNNINGHAM to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Government House,
Antigua, May 7, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Island of Nevis for 1845, together with a Despatch from Mr. President Shortland, in reference to the condition of that colony.

2nd May, 1846. No. 18.

Mr. Shortland seems to take a very hopeful view of the prospects of the Island under his administration; and though I have not been able to arrive at quite the same favourable conclusions, yet I can have no doubt that during the last two or three years a considerable improvement has taken place.

Nevis suffered more from emigration to the southern colonies, than almost any other island; and at one time the supply of labour was quite insufficient to keep the estates in cultivation. Many of these emigrants, however, appear to have returned, and are now cultivating estates for shares, under the metairie system.

I ought not, perhaps, to omit to mention, that in the addresses which Mr. President Shortland and his Legislative Houses interchanged at the commencement of the Session, the Council and Assembly did not appear to cherish quite the same sanguine views of the present condition or future prospects of the Island as those which the President has been led to form. However, as I have said a marked improvement has taken place; and if the President is able to substitute a spirit of hope for one of despondence, he will have done much towards realizing the prosperity which he anticipates.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. CUNNINGHAM, Lieut.-Governor,
Administering General Government.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c &c.

Enclosure in No. 26.

NEVIS.

Encl. in No. 26.

(No. 18.)

Government House, Nevis, May 2nd, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the "Blue Book" for the year 1845.

It affords me much pleasure to be able to report favourably of the condition and general prospects of this community. I am led to hope that the landed proprietor is recovering from the difficulties which have hitherto retarded him, and that the plan, now very generally adopted, of giving the negro an interest in the soil by intrusting to him the cultivation of the cane, and dividing the produce, will lead to much benefit.

The finance is in a very satisfactory state, the revenue far exceeding the expenditure.

The imports, compared with the preceding year, vary but little.

The exports of colonial produce are nearly equal.

The population, I am led to believe, has greatly increased since the last census; many labourers continue to leave for Trinidad, but a still greater number (of those who formerly emigrated) return.

Wages remain steady at the prices of former years, 10*d.* per diem for field labour. The disposition to labour is decidedly increasing; there is an ample supply notwithstanding the greater quantity of land bringing under cultivation.

I can speak most favourably of the general desire of the labouring classes to procure education for their children; and, I am happy to add, that through the laudable exertion of the Wesleyans, their wants have, to a great extent, been supplied. The other school establishments are by no means efficient; but I can assure your Excellency I shall lose no opportunity of promoting an improvement.

I regret that I am unable to report any progress under the head of public improvements.

Crimes and offences of a grave nature rarely occur. With the exception of the unfortunate criminal, Nevis Moore, who was executed for murder, an almost total absence of crime exists; the habits of all classes are peaceable and orderly. At my last visit to the gaol it had not a single inmate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGBY SHORTLAND.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Cunningham,
Administering the General Government.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

(No. 34.)

No. 27.

No. 27.

COPY of a DESPATCH from General Sir R. WILSON to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR,

Gibraltar, 16th March, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for Gibraltar, prepared for the year 1845, accompanied by such observations, which the limited means of this colony afford, viz.:—

Revenue and Expenditure.—The receipts show a decrease on the year, compared with the previous year 1844, of 3183*l.*, arising from a falling off in the six following principal items of revenue, viz., "Wharfage toll, duties on wines, duties on spirits, auction fees, rates and duties in the port department, and ground rents," amounting to 3086*l.* to be accounted for; independent of a very perceptible diminution in the trade of the colony, from greater vigilance on the part of the Spanish authorities in enforcing their fiscal laws, Gibraltar became, in 1844, the general rendezvous of several foreign squadrons for observing the events then occurring in Western Barbary or Morocco, consequently there was increased consumption in that year.

The expenditure is also greater than that of 1844, by 2422*l.*; but under this head are included payments into the military chest, as "surplus revenue," which, in 1845, amounted to 4000*l.*, and should be considered imprests by this government in aid of general revenue.

Education is advancing, the number of elementary schools having increased.

Public buildings are in good order.

Civil hospital is well conducted, and the funds of the institution permit the construction of a ward for the reception of insane patients, an establishment much required in this community.

GIBRALTAR.

Population.—Indigenous population shows an increase compared with the previous year.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. T. WILSON, General and Governor.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 28.

(No. 22.) No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. Sir P. STUART, G.C.M.G., to the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Malta, April 14, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith the Blue Book for the year 1845.

Before entering into detail on the several matters on which I am directed to report specially in transmitting the annual Blue Book, I beg leave to call your attention to a very important feature in the transactions of last year, namely, the very considerable falling off in the revenue, which, being chiefly in the amount of import custom duties on wheat and the common wine of Sicily, might be attributed to a want of employment for the labouring classes, and a consequent deficiency of the means of procuring a more abundant supply of those articles of general consumption, the return of duty on which has been usually looked upon as the best test of the prosperity of the people at large; but so far from there having been less employment for the labouring classes in 1845 than in previous years, the case has been different, for what with the construction of the new dock by the naval department, the extensive improvements in the fortifications which were commenced being carried into effect by the engineer department, and the completion of the new aqueduct from the Fanara springs to the three cities of Vittoriosa, Cospicua, and Senglea, by the local government, there has been a wider field for the employment of artisans of all descriptions than usual, and particularly for quarrymen, stonecutters, and masons; descriptions of work from which the inhabitants of the several villages throughout the island derive the greatest benefit.

To whatever causes, therefore, the defalcation in the revenue may be owing, it must not be attributed to the want of employment for the labouring classes, or to a less degree of prosperity among the inhabitants in general. Under the heads of "Revenue and Expenditure," and of "Commerce and Manufactures," some circumstances will be mentioned which had the effect of increasing the import custom duties in the year 1844, beyond the amount which they would otherwise have produced, and, at the same time, operating a diminution of their amount for the year 1845.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The pay and salaries of the individuals employed in the several branches of the civil service of these islands, amounted, on the 31st December, 1845, to the following yearly rates, classed in the order prescribed in the instructions from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury:—

	£.	s.
Civil	10,309	5
Revenue	4,601	0
Judicial (including police and quarantine)	22,279	12
Ecclesiastical	466	15
Public instruction	3,892	0
Charitable institutions	5,212	0
	£46,760	12

Of which, 43,103*l.* 3*s.* borne on the schedule of fixed establishment,

2412*l.* 9*s.* defrayed from the registry fees of the courts of justice, and 1245*l.* from the profits and rents of the Monte di Pieta.

There is at present also one extra clerk, receiving a yearly salary of 80*l.*, who is employed in the civil branch.

Some further services, not to a large amount, and chiefly ecclesiastical, are defrayed in the class of fixed allowances.

Upon the whole establishment there is a reduction since last year, at the rate of 140*l.* per annum, consisting of the pay of seven quarantine guards, whose places have been reduced as vacancies have occurred.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross receipts of revenue during the year have amounted to 102,303*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, from which drawbacks have been returned to the amount of 4196*l.* 10*s.* 6¼*d.*, leaving for service a nett income of 98,107*l.* 4*s.* 3¾*d.* This sum is 13,689*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* less than the nett amount realized in the year 1844, which was, however, much beyond the annual average. It is at the same time less by 6134*l.* 15*s.* 8¼*d.* than the amount previously estimated, which was founded upon that average; it is also 3346*l.* 6*s.* 2¼*d.* below the expenditure that was intended to be charged on it, and 794*l.* 6*s.* 9¾*d.* within the eventual amount of the same expenditure as diminished by savings.

This would certainly be a bad prospect of our financial resources, if the view were confined to the transactions of a single year. It is therefore incumbent on me to explain, that the financial arrangements of this Government have never been founded upon the results of a single year, but on the average of those of a series of years, the fluctuations in which have been often very wide. In last December adverse winds kept back importations from Sicily, which, in the ordinary course of events, would have fallen within the year's collection of duties; but by which delay, the two expired months of the new year have benefited, to the extent of nearly 1900*l.* in the receipts of the customs, over the corresponding collections made in January and February, 1845.

A loss of revenue has certainly been suffered in the rents of the Government cultivable lands, through a decrease in the value of agricultural produce; but not to an extent to render any reduction necessary in the usual public expenditure of these islands. Of losses of rent which have been suffered through failure in the crops, I make no account in a financial point of view, however deeply it is to be lamented in other respects, as a deficiency of income from this cause must be fully compensated by the larger importation of produce subject to duty.

Since last August the revenue has sustained a loss of about 1800*l.* a-year, by a repeal of the transfer duty on immoveable property and the duty on sales by auction, as well as by a modification of the tariff of judicial fees. These measures were, in pursuance of the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, received in a Despatch from Lord Stanley, dated the 20th of June, 1845, and may have affected the receipts for the concluding portion of the year to the extent of between 600*l.* and 700*l.*

Upon the whole there is nothing in the state of the island to indicate that the average of our yearly resources has been in any way impaired by accidental causes, nor any reason to apprehend that the average of income, derivable from existing sources, is in any degree unequal to bear the charge of yearly expenditure, which ought, fairly considered, to be defrayed out of the local means.

At the same time, I do not consider that, under prevailing circumstances, there is room at present for any further remission of taxes or duties.

Besides the nett revenue collected within the year, a surplus fund of 18,751*l.* 9*s.*, remaining from the revenue of former years, was brought forward in aid of the year's resources.

The expenditure defrayed during the year has amounted to 108,192*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.*, including 4196*l.* 10*s.* 6¼*d.* paid in drawbacks of revenue, and 561*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* written off for loss on specie, in consequence of the late monetary enactments. Deducting these, a nett expenditure of 103,435*l.* 0*s.* 6¼*d.* remains, which is 1920*l.* 9*s.* 1¾*d.* less than the net amount disbursed in 1844.

This nett sum, however, includes only 98,695*l.* 16*s.* 9¼*d.* charged against the resources of the year, under the usual annual estimate, with its adjusting sup-

MALTA.

plement. Add to which 205*l.* 14*s.* 4¼*d.* left over from that estimate for future payment, the expenditure will be found to have exceeded the year's resources by 794*l.* 6*s.* 9¾*d.*, the sum already mentioned with reference to the deficient revenue.

The surplus remaining from previous years has been encroached upon to the extent of 972*l.* 15*s.* 6¾*d.*, to make good the aforesaid deficiency, added to 561*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* for losses by the reductions in the value of specie, less 370*l.* given up from a provision made in the estimate for 1844, for an intended building of a tower to form an observatory, and 12*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* saved on balances brought from previous estimates.

The remainder of the nett expenditure has been defrayed either out of the provisions of previous years, or out of a special grant of the surplus for those years, made within the year 1845.

At the end of the year there was left an unexpended surplus fund of 12,862*l.* 10*s.* 5½*d.*, deducting from which 11,138*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* reserved for expenditure already provided for, but left over for future disbursement, there remains an available surplus of 1724*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*

From the Royal Malta Fencible Regiment the coast guards required for the protection of the quarantine and revenue laws are furnished permanently, the civil government paying annually for this service the sum of 1200*l.* from the local revenues into the commissariat chest.

The expense incurred by Great Britain for the military protection of the island, as far as it is possible to ascertain the same in Malta, amounted to 72,889*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, of which sum 5000*l.* was contributed from the local revenues, besides the sum of 1200*l.* for the coast guards, as above mentioned.

The amount of bills drawn by the Deputy Commissary General on the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury during the year for the military and naval service, was 93,728*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*

Judicial Establishment.

The amount of salaries of the judicial establishment is stated under the head "Civil Establishment," a portion of the same being defrayed from the Registry Fees of the courts of justice. No alteration has been made in this department during the year 1845.

The project of a Code of Criminal Laws for Malta was revised in the course of the year by the Council of Government, with reference to a report made thereon to Lord Stanley, by Andrew Jameson, Esq., the Sheriff Substitute of Edinburgh; and a copy of the Code, embodying such of the alterations and amendments suggested by Mr. Jameson as were adopted by the Council, has been forwarded to England for further consideration.

Crime.

Fifty indictments were tried during the year 1845, in Her Majesty's Criminal Court in the Island of Malta, for the following offences, viz.:—

Culpable Infanticide	2
Wounding	8
Carrying prohibited weapons	1
Breach of Quarantine	3
Breach of Nocturnal Precept	10
Theft	23
Swindling	1
Against nature	1
Abusing his Father	1
	50

Of the persons indicted, 46 were found guilty and condemned, viz.:—

To Hard Labour	22
Imprisonment	21
Whipping, Solitary Imprisonment, and Exile	1
Fine	2
	46
Acquitted	10
Number of Prisoners	56

There was also one case of libel; but the Court not proceeding on it, the defendant was liberated

And there were four cases admitted to bail for selling marine-stores without license. One fined 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Two acquitted, and one ceded.

In the Court of Special Commission, four indictments were tried, viz.:—

1. Against two Maltese for a murder at Candia; one prisoner condemned to the public-works for three years, the other to six months.

1. Against a Maltese for a murder at Tripoli; prisoner acquitted.

1. Against a Maltese for a murder at Casal Gudia, a village in the country; prisoner condemned to the public works for five years.

1. Against three Maltese for wounding, &c.; one prisoner condemned to public works for ten years; one for one year; and one acquitted

Twenty-four indictments were tried in the Island of Gozo during the year 1845, for the following offences, viz.:—

Culpable Infanticide	1
Wounding	6
Having prohibited weapons	3
Theft	4
Swindling	1
Breach of Nocturnal Precept	7
Blaspheming	2
	24

Of the persons indicted, twenty-seven were found guilty and condemned, viz.:—

To Hard Labour	3
Imprisonment	16
Imprisonment suffered declared sufficient	8
	27
Acquitted	10
Number of Prisoners	37

Ecclesiastical.

With respect to the Roman Catholic Church of Malta, nothing has occurred to call for any particular observation. This Church is supported by its own revenues, under the immediate control of the Archbishop Bishop of Malta, totally and independent of the local government; nor does it receive any assistance from the local revenues for the support of its numerous churches and chapels, amounting to upwards of 250; nor for the support of its numerous secular priesthood, amounting to nearly 900. There are, however, a few benefices at the nomination of the local government, and a few churches kept in repair out of the local revenues; besides which the Government, in its capacity of landed proprietors, has to defray the expenses of certain ecclesiastical establishments to the amount of about 1300*l.*, the greater portion of sum forms a permanent charge on the property so possessed.

I have now the satisfaction to state, that the tower and spire of the English Collegiate Church of St. Paul's, in Valetta, have been completed; and this munificent and pious work is therefore brought to a conclusion, at an expense of 15,000*l.* to Her Majesty the Queen Dowager, who has presented the Church to Her Majesty's Government for the use of the Protestant inhabitants of Malta.

Education.

The Rector of the University reports, that the studies both in the University and Lyceum are being followed up with more regularity and profit to the students than formerly, by the introduction, particularly into the latter establishment, of stricter rules in regard to attendance, and an improved system of imparting elementary instruction, as well as by an understanding on the part of the pupils, that without a competent advancement in the prepa-

MALTA.

ratory studies required by the statute, they will not be admitted into the University. The Rector considers that both the University and Lyceum are in a state of transition from a very faulty to a better system; to arrive at which, however, there are still many difficulties to contend with, of which not the least is the want of power to enforce by any penalty the regular attendance of the pupils.

In the meantime, the increased number of pupils attending the Lyceum affords reason to hope that a desire for instruction is gaining ground.

The Rector of the University being unable to give his attention to the supervision of the Government primary schools on account of his other important duties, was relieved from that charge in October, 1844, when the schools were placed under the direction of the Canon Fortunato Panzavecchia. The schools are now more numerously attended than they were before, and owing to the many improvements introduced by the present Director, and the use of elementary books and exercises prepared by him, and printed under his direction, I have every reason to believe that the scholars are now making progress in the knowledge of the English and Italian languages, which they are taught to read and to understand through the medium of the Maltese.

The number of scholars in the different primary schools were—

In January, 1845.		In January, 1846.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1471	1368	1783	1392

Besides an evening school opened in one of the villages (Zabbar), which is attended by 129 boys and 6 adults, and an Arabic school attended by 50 boys.

Commerce and Manufactures.

The estimated value of the imports which have paid consumption duty in the year 1845 is 423,030*l.*, being 337,543*l.* less than in the previous year; this great disparity is chiefly to be found on reference to the articles of wheat, pulse, and inferior wines, and may be accounted for partly by a greater quantity of hose articles than what was required for the consumption of the year being released from bond in 1844, in anticipation of the reduction in the current value of the South American dollars, which took place in that year, and partly by the circumstance alluded to under the head of revenue and expenditure, namely, that importations from Sicily were kept back by adverse winds in December last, which otherwise would have arrived within the year.

The estimated value of exports within the year was 237,072*l.*, being 318,606*l.* less than in 1844, which difference is partly to be found in the articles of cotton wool, anise-seed, and Malta cotton manufactures; but chiefly in the greater quantity of wheat and pulse exported from bond.

The crop of cotton and anise-seed suffered severely from the want of timely rain in the year 1845; and the extraordinary quantity of wheat exported from bond in 1844 was the effect of a scarcity of corn which prevailed in Sicily in that year.

Four vessels, the aggregate tonnage of which is $837\frac{1}{95}$, were built and registered at Malta during the year 1845. There were, at the end of the year, 160 merchant vessels belonging to the island, measuring 18,357 tons, and employing 1612 seamen, 84 of which vessels have been registered according to law.

Agriculture and Grants of Land.

The very extraordinary droughts which have prevailed in these islands for several years past have been most prejudicial to the interests of the land owner and agriculturist, and have driven many of those addicted to field labour to seek employment in Algiers and other places on the coast of Barbary.

Six small pieces of waste ground have been disposed of during the year, the value of which amounted to 21*l.* 15*s.* They were given on the application of the proprietors of contiguous lands, to whom alone they could have been of any value. This will explain why the Government, in disposing of these plots of ground, did not put them up to public sale.

Public Works.

The outlay by the Department of Public Works and Repairs amounted, during the year 1845, to 14,378*l.* 19*s.* 7¾*d.*; but the greater part of this outlay was for ordinary repairs of the Government property, and of the streets, roads, moles, aqueducts, cisterns, &c., the only works of a special description for which expense was incurred during the year being the breakwater in the island of Gozo, the new prison on the Coradino Hill, and the new aqueduct from the Fanara to the three cities of Vittoriosa, Cospicua, and Senglea, which works are now completed.

In consequence of obstacles to the progress of the main line of the new aqueduct, from the contemplated improvements of the fortifications about to be commenced by the department of Royal Engineers, a temporary line of pipes was laid down to the market-place of Cospicua, in July, 1845, since which time the inhabitants of that city have enjoyed the benefit of a constant supply of water; this will be now extended permanently to the inhabitants of all the three cities, and will be to them of incalculable benefit. A survey is also in progress for ascertaining the best means of giving occasional supplies of water to Casals Crendi, Micabiba, Tarxen, Luca, &c. Villages on the line of the new aqueduct.

Population.

The population of Malta and Gozo is stated at 123,274, being an increase on the return of the previous year of 2494; but this increase will be seen to be in the number of British residents, aliens, and Queen's troops, there being a decrease of 929 in the native male population, which is accounted for by a number of those persons addicted to agricultural labour having emigrated to Algiers and the other Barbary States, discouraged by the repeated failure of the crops from the want of rain which has been so severely felt in these islands for several years past.

I have, &c.,

P. STUART.

To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No 29.

ST. HELENA.

(No. 15.) No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor TRELAWNEY to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

MY LORD, St. Helena, March 24, 1846.

I DO myself the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1845, and beg to make the following observations thereon :—

REVENUE.

The gross revenue of the Colony for the year 1845, amounts to the sum of 16,596*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* In this amount is included the sum of 1,032*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, being the amount received by the Treasurer of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund during the year. This sum, deducted from the gross revenue, leaves a nett balance for 1845, of 15,563*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* The commutation of rents (as detailed in page 166) amounts, for the year 1845, to the sum of 1,070*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.* Total number of properties commuted since October 1, 1843, being 310, and the total amount received 2,991*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

The tonnage duty of one farthing a ton on vessels visiting this port, has this year realised the sum of 544*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*. This amount to be appropriated for the erection of a new hospital.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for 1845, is 19,116*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, being a decrease as compared with the last year, of 144*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*; which, after deducting the advance to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and the pensions granted by Parliament to the late East India Company's servants, leaves a nett expenditure for

1845, of	15,385*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*
Nett revenue . . .	15,563*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*
Balance in favour of the Colony	178*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.*

A special disbursement of 300*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, loss sustained on foreign coins by the change of currency to British sterling, was debited to the Colony during the past year.

I have much pleasure in bringing to your notice, that the present is the first year since the assumption of St. Helena by Her Majesty's Government, that the revenue collected on the Island has more than equalled its expenditure.

COMMISSARIAT EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the Commissariat amounts to the sum of 24,709*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; in this amount is included, 4,537*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, on account of Her Majesty's navy, and 189*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, on account of the liberated Africans. The total amount of bills drawn, 19,080*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; the gain on the exchange, 101*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS.

The expenditure under this head amounts to the sum of 1,389*l.* 19*s.* 7¼*d.*

The following alterations in the establishment have taken place during the year.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Secretarial Department.—Mr. R. C. Pennell appointed Colonial Secretary on the 8th of November, 1844, assumed his duties, vice Mr. J. G. Doveton, acting on 24th February, 1845.

Treasury.—New Appointment.—Mr. J. G. Doveton, appointed Colonial Treasurer on the above dates, formerly Clerk to the Treasury, which office is now abolished.

Judicial.—Mr. J. N. Firmin, Acting Queen's Advocate, confirmed in the appointment on 200*l.* per annum, by despatch from Right Hon. the Secretary of State. No 190, dated 20th June, 1845.

Medical.—Mr. C. M. Vowell, Colonial Surgeon on leave, returned to his duties on the 15th October, 1845.

Police.—Lieut.-Colonel Hodson, Summary Judge, went to England in April

last, two years' leave since granted to him by Secretary of State's Despatch. No. 186, dated 15th May, 1845.

Pensions.

George Wilson, pensioned on the funds of the Colony at 31*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* a year, late Coxswain in Harbour Master's Department,

The under-mentioned persons (late Company's servants) have died during the past year:—

Thomas Coffin, }
Joseph Le Moss, } Soldiers at 1*s.* per diem.

Coins and Exchanges.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at 12,000*l.* In 1844 it was said to be about 11,000*l.*, and considered so low in amount as to inconvenience mercantile transactions. Since then, 10,000*l.* sterling has been received from Great Britain. This amount would appear to have found its way back to Europe, a clear proof that the circulating medium required for this colony does not exceed 12,000*l.*

The average rate of exchange has been about ½ per cent. premium in the Commissariat transactions. Private bills are usually at about 1½ per cent. below Government Bills.

Imports.

The total number of ships touching at St. Helena during 1845 amounted to 1458, including 33 men of war and 13 slave prizes.

The imports, as shown by the Collector of Customs, amount to 94,658*l.*, deducting therefrom 10,800*l.*, the value of the cargo of a French ship, (discharged in consequence of her leaky state,) leaves 83,858*l.*; this shows a nett increase in imports over last year of 35,791*l.* The cause of the increase is chiefly to be found in a large amount of specie (10,000*l.*) having been received on account of Her Majesty's Government, and the greater number of prize vessels (thirteen) having been sold with their cargoes during the last year as compared with 1844, when there were three only. Increased supplies, chiefly of British goods, have likewise been imported to meet the demands from the naval squadron on the coast.

Exports.

For 1845, as stated by the Collector of Customs amount to 18,379*l.*; deduct the cargo of the French ship before alluded to of 10,500*l.* leaves the exports for 1845 at 9879*l.*, being 20,959*l.* less than the previous year. With respect to this decrease, the Collector observes, that an alteration has occurred in the mode of making up the Return for 1845, which is now framed in accordance with similar Returns required to be furnished to the Commissioners of Customs, whereby the export trade of the port with other countries is correctly shown,—whereas the former Returns contained the articles supplied to shipping for consumption during the voyage, blended with those which properly constituted the exports from this colony.

Foreign Consuls.

Saul Solomon, Esq., recognized during the past year, as Consul for Hamburg and Lubeck.

Nathaniel Solomon, Vice Consul for ditto.

Liberated Africans.

Have again been introduced into the colony during the past year, 540 having arrived on the 26th of December; of these 21 died from dysentery, and the crowded state in which they were brought here, leaving 519 in charge of the Collector of Customs on the 31st December, 1845.

I have, &c.,

HAMELIN TRELAWNY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

[The Report for New South Wales for the year 1845 not having been yet received, that for 1844 has been substituted.]

No. 30. (No. 86.) No. 30.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir G. GIPPS to the Right Hon. Lord STANLEY.

Government House, Sydney,
May 8, 1845.

MY LORD,

Blue Book. No. 1. Report. No. 2.

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward the Blue Book, for the year ended the 31st of December, 1844, with the Report which, according to your Lordship's Despatch (No. 101), of the 5th May, 1842, should accompany it.

I regret extremely that I have not been able to forward this Book, and the Report on it earlier; but I assure your Lordship that the delay has been inevitable.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GEO. GIPPS.

Encl. in No. 30.

Enclosure in No. 30.

I.—TAXES, DUTIES, &c.

The only alterations which have been made in the duties of customs, since the passing of the Act of Parliament, 9th Geo. IV. c. 83, (in the year 1827), were effected by a local ordinance passed in 1840, (4th Vict. No. 11), by which the duties on imported spirits, and the *ad valorum* duties on goods of foreign growth or manufacture, were raised to their present amount.

3rd Vict., No. 9. 4th Vict., No. 16. 5th Vict., No. 16.

By successive Acts of Council, passed in the years 1839, 1840, and 1841, the duty on spirits distilled in the colony, was gradually raised to the same amount as that which is payable on rum from the West Indies, namely, 9*s.* per gallon.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The amount of *ad valorum* duties in the year ending the 30th September, 1841, was	48,365	7	8
In that ending the 30th September, 1842	35,339	11	11
In that ending the 30th September, 1843	26,919	17	10
In that ending the 31st December, 1844	12,654	9	7

The reduction being wholly occasioned by the diminution of our imports, unless, indeed, some portion of it may be owing to the increase of smuggling.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The amount of duty on spirits imported was, in 1842	149,510	17	9
In 1843	114,533	1	3
In 1844	95,923	16	8
The amount of duty on spirits distilled in the colony was, in 1842	5,155	6	0
In 1843	13,947	5	0
In 1844	13,121	11	0
The duty on tobacco was, in 1842	51,617	0	11
In 1843	44,125	0	3
In 1844	43,390	6	3

There has been therefore a decrease in the produce of all the duties, as indeed there has been in the whole revenue of the colony, in the year 1844 as compared with 1843, though by improperly including as revenue, money which has been raised by loan, a different result is apparently arrived at in page 72 of the Blue Book.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The wharfage and harbour duties have continued to fall off, collectively, they were in 1842	11,498	5	9
In 1843	7,679	5	1
In 1844	4,260	8	7

but the decrease in 1844 has been in great part occasioned by the passing of the Act of Council, 7th Vict. No. 12, (s. 14), which reduced the harbour dues.

II. FEES OF OFFICE.

The fees of office form a considerable source of revenue in New South Wales, though their amount has greatly fallen off since 1842:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
In 1842 it was	34,046	4	10
1843	31,987	17	0
1844 only	19,069	10	5

In the year 1839, however, the amount was less than in 1844.

Of these fees a large proportion is raised in the courts of justice, and they have been affected, not only by the decrease of business in the courts, but also by reductions made in the fees by the judges—a matter which was noticed in my Despatch, No. 143, of the 12th July, 1844.

The fees taken in the different branches of the Supreme Court in Sydney, amounted in

	£.	s.	d.
1842, to . . .	14,460	15	7
1843	11,825	9	9
1844, only to . .	7,652	12	8

III. and IV. Revenue and Expenditure, and comparative yearly Statements of the same.

The following Table shows the ordinary revenue and expenditure of the colony, from the year 1838 to the year 1843, both inclusive, but without reckoning the land fund, or the charges on it.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Excess in Expenditure over Revenue.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1838	211,988	19	5	323,736	12	0	111,747	12	7
1839	259,740	5	5	346,241	17	9	86,501	12	4
							Excess in Revenue over Expenditure.		
1840	335,084	9	0	331,775	18	10	3,308	10	2
1841	403,592	8	2	350,507	8	6	53,084	19	8
1842	414,156	8	2	339,022	12	5	75,133	15	9
1843	340,134	12	9	317,667	15	5	22,466	17	4

In the above Table the entire revenue of the colony is included, except what is derived from the sale of land, which revenue is separately accounted for under the name of the Land Fund; and in the expenditure are included the whole expenses of the colony, except those which are expressly chargeable on the land fund, namely—

1. The expense of the survey and sale of land.
2. Expense incurred in protecting and civilizing the Aborigines.
3. Immigration.

In these years, there being then no debt on the crown revenue, it was usual to consider all the branches of it, except the land fund, applicable to the ordinary expenses of government; but a debt having since been incurred, to the payment of which the whole of the crown revenue is pledged, I have no longer felt myself at liberty to follow the plan which I adopted when there was no debt, and previously to the passing of the Constitutional Act of the colony, which has established a new system of finance.

In all future accounts I shall therefore, unless directed to the contrary by the Lords of the Treasury, follow in the strictest manner the injunctions contained in the Constitutional Act itself.

In my Report on the "Blue Book" for 1842, a Table was given, showing that between the 1st January, 1832, and the 30th June, 1842, the sum of 951,241*l.* was expended on immigration, being upwards of 87½ per cent. on the total amount realized within the same time by the sale of land. I regret to say, that since the 30th June, 1842, very small sums, comparatively speaking, have been realized from the sale of land. In the year ending the 30th September, 1843, only 12,141*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and in 1844, 7,402*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* These sums have been quite insufficient to meet the expense of the management of the Crown lands, including those of survey and sale; and for this reason alone, if for no other, it would be no longer possible to allow the produce of the quit-rents and minor branches of the Crown revenue to be considered, as formerly, applicable to the ordinary expenses of the Government.

The utmost exertions have been used of late years to keep the ordinary expenses of the Government within the ordinary revenue, exclusive altogether of any portion of the Crown revenue, and with what degree of success, will be seen by the following statement.

The ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure, in each of the years that I have administered this Government, if made out strictly according to the financial system established by the 5th and 6th Vict., ch. 76, would stand thus: the ordinary revenue being exclusive altogether of the Crown revenue, the ordinary expenditure, altogether exclusive of those items of expenditure, namely, management of Crown lands, including survey and sale, aborigines, and immigration:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Years.	Ordinary Revenue, exclusive altogether of Crown Revenue.	Ordinary Expenditure, exclusive altogether of Charges on the Crown Revenue; namely, Management, including Survey and Sale of Land, Aborigines, and Immigration.	Excess in Expenditure over Revenue.	Excess in Revenue over Expenditure.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1838	202,579 18 7	323,736 12 0	121,156 13 5	. .
1839	244,777 12 5	346,241 17 9	101,464 5 4	. .
1840	314,800 7 2	331,775 18 10	16,975 11 8	. .
1841	375,577 10 1	350,507 8 6	. .	25,070 1 7
1842	372,185 0 0	339,022 12 5	. .	33,162 7 7
1843	296,884 15 10	317,667 15 5	20,782 19 7	. .
1844	266,724 19 5	257,891 10 6	. .	8,833 8 11

N.B. The only difference between this Table and the Table last given is, that in this Table no portion whatever of Crown Revenue is included, whereas, in the former Table the Crown Revenue is included, with the exception of the produce of land sales.

This statement sufficiently shows that it is quite possible to conduct the finances of the colony on the principles laid down in the Constitutional Act. 1843 and 1844 were years of unusual depression, and in the expenditure of them, moreover, were included sums amounting to 25,250*l.*, which are advances on account of the new barracks, hereafter to be repaid.

The minor * branches of the Crown revenue have produced as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1840	20,284	1	10
1841	28,014	18	1
1842	41,971	8	5
1843	43,249	16	11
1844	36,825	7	2

including in the last two years the casual revenues of the Crown, which was in former years credited to the general revenue.

The total amount of revenue is made by the "Blue Book" to have been for the year ending the 31st December, 1844, 477,162*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; but this is evidently fallacious, as monies are credited in page 54, which do not form revenue, to the amount of 61,452*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and again, in page 62, to the amount of 21,317*l.* 16*s.*; the real revenue of the year, as stated by the Auditor-General in the accounts to be laid before the Legislative Council, was 290,585*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, exclusive of money raised by the issue of debentures.

The expenditure of the year would appear, by the "Blue Book" to have been 406,656*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; but there is also the sum of 60,354*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* charged as "Advances" in page 57, and other sums elsewhere, which are not, properly speaking, expenditure.

The total expenditure, according to the same returns by the Auditor-General, was 335,429*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*, including 73,164*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* for emigration.

To judge of the comparative expenditure of 1843 and 1844, it will be better to take a few examples of different departments or services.

The chief decrease is to be found in the following departments, or services, including Port Phillip:

	Decrease, or less in 1844 than in 1843.		
	£	s.	d.
Surveyor-General's department	7,478	13	1
Police	17,191	9	11
Gaols	2,798	6	8
Post-Office	3,428	9	2
Public Worship	2,379	16	6

The services on which an increased expenditure has been incurred are very few, being only—

	£	s.	d.
The Legislative Council	1,503	10	9
Schools	1,678	19	11

V. COMMISSARIAT, or Expenses defrayed out of the Military Chest.

The expenses on account of Convict Services have further decreased:—

	£	s.	d.
They were in the year ended the 30th Sept., 1842,	87,992	10	3
" " " 1843,	68,403	4	9
" " " and in 1844,	54,437	1	0

* Quit Rents, Depasturing Licences, &c., they are in fact no longer the *minor*, but rather the chief branches at present of the Crown Revenue.

The number of Convicts in the Colony is returned as 19,175; but of them upwards of 13,000 hold tickets of leave.

VI. Local Revenues.

The local revenue of the city of Sydney assumes this year considerable importance—the amount of it, exclusive of contributions from the government, amounting to 11,604*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* The amount raised by assessment, and included in the above, was 6,785*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

In Melbourne, also, rates were levied to the amount of 1,488*l.* 6*s.* 11*d*; the total revenue, exclusive of aid from the government, having been 2,323*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

VII. Military Expenditure.

The amount of expenditure, on account of military protection, was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In the year 1841,	99,762	5	3
„ 1842,	102,987	6	4
„ 1843,	92,333	18	1
„ 1844,	90,350	18	6

This latter expenditure, is, however, exclusive of New Zealand.

VIII. Public Works.

The sum expended on Public Works was, in 1843, 52,130*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*; in 1844, only 26,719*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* The decrease is principally in the Port Phillip district.

IX. Legislation.

For the Acts of Council passed in the Sessions of 1843 and 1844, I must refer to my despatches, dated and numbered as follows:—

	Nos.		Nos.
24th February, 1843,	34	9th July, 1844,	138
17th April, „	53	31st December, „	266
14th December, „	208	1st January, 1845,	1
1st January, 1844,	1	5th „ „	7
1st „ „	2	5th February, „	28
1st „ „	3	18th March, „	57
18th March, „	65		

X. Legislative Council.

The names of the members composing the new Legislative Council, will be found at pages 153 to 155.

XI. Civil Establishment.

The list of civil officers contains 671 names, being 46 less than 1843.

Extensive reductions in numerous departments of Government have been made in the course of 1844, the extent of which may be judged of by the fact, that setting aside altogether the service of immigration, the gross expenditure of 1844 was less than that of 1843, by the sum of 67,770*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1843	330,035	0	2
1844	262,264	3	9
	67,770	16	5

XII. Security for Discharge of Duties.

A question has been before the Executive Council respecting the security which two officers appointed to the Supreme Court ought to give, namely, the Master in Equity, and the Prothonotary; and the Council recommended that each should give security to the amount of 2000*l.* They have, however, each demurred to this, alleging that when appointed in England, they were not informed that security would be required from them, and that in this country it is quite impossible for them to find securities. This matter was brought under the notice of the Secretary of State, by my Despatch, No. 67 of the 20th March, 1844.

XIII. Pensions.

No new pension has been granted in 1844; and the Pension List has been reduced 200*l.* by the death of Mrs. King.

Its present amount is only 1,050*l.*, exclusive of some small pensions payable out of the military chest, amounting to 70*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.* In my Despatches of the 1st July, and 9th Nov., 1844, Nos. 132, and 241, I, however, recommended the granting of pensions to the widows of the two Chief Justices, Sir Francis Forbes and Sir James Dowling.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

XIV. Recapitulation of the Establishment.

No observation seems necessary under this head.

XV. Foreign Consuls.

No observation seems necessary under this head.

XVI. Population.

The table at page 373 shows an estimated increase in the population during the year of 9,572 souls, bringing the population up to 173,377, exclusive of Norfolk Island, which no longer belongs to this colony.

It is remarkable, however, that whilst there has been this increase by births and immigration, there has been, as there also was in 1843, a decrease in the adult population, both male and female, which can only, I imagine, be explained by the dying off of convicts. The adult males in the colony are still in number *more than double the females.*

XVII. Ecclesiastical Return.—Pages 375 to 394.

The number of Clergymen of all denominations receiving salaries from the Government, was by the "Blue Book" of 1842, ... 94
1843, ... 103
And is by that of 1844, ... 104

No alterations of importance have occurred in respect to the religious establishments of the colony during the year; but an important question remains to be decided respecting the division of the sum of 30,000*l.* secured by schedule C of the 5th and 6th Vict., c. 76 for the support of public worship.

This subject is now under the consideration of the Executive Council, agreeably to instructions contained in Lord Stanley's Despatch, No. 124 of the 24th August, 1844.

XVIII. Education.

No system of general education for the lower classes has yet been established; the attempt made in 1837 to introduce the Irish, and subsequently in 1839, the British and Foreign system, not having proved successful.

At present, the public schools for children of the lower classes, are for the most part under the management of the clergy of the different denominations, assistance being rendered to all equally by the Government, under regulations, dated the 24th Sept., 1841, of which a printed copy is annexed.*

These regulations were issued in order to stop a practice which greatly prevailed in the years 1840 and 1841 (especially in the Presbyterian schools), of charging the public with half the expense of educating the children of persons in a condition of life not such as to require eleemosynary assistance.

There are three establishments for orphans, or destitute children, maintained entirely at he expense of the Government,—one for males, and one for female Protestant children,—and a third for Roman Catholics of both sexes.

There is also a school for the children of convicts in the female factory at Parramatta.

For children of the higher classes there is no deficiency of places of education.

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* Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney,
24th September, 1841.

Public Education.

Some further regulations being necessary to define the manner in which aid will, in future, be afforded by government to the public schools, intended for the education of the poorer classes of the community, throughout the colony, the Governor directs that the following shall take effect, from and after the first day of January next:—

New Schools, or those established since the year 1836.

In towns, or places, of which the population, by the late census, amounted to 2000, or upwards, the aid to be given by government to any school will never exceed one penny for each day's actual attendance of every child in the school, no child being reckoned whose parents or friends are in a station of life such as to render it unnecessary to extend to them the assistance of government.

In towns whose population did not, by the late census, amount to 2000 souls, the aid afforded to any school, may be as high as 1¼d. per diem, for each child, and it may be further extended to 1½d. per diem, if there be no other school of any denomination receiving aid from the government, within five miles of it.

In no case, however, will the aid afforded by government exceed the sum which may be raised for the support of the school from private sources, nor will it ever exceed 25*l.* per quarter, unless the number of children attending the school, or the poverty of their parents, be such as to make a special exception in favour of it necessary.

Schools established prior to the Year 1837.

No alteration in respect to these schools is proposed during the year 1842, further than that which is hereinafter specified under the head of "Schools in General."

It is to be understood, however, that the sums granted by the Legislature, in aid of these schools, can never be exceeded, nor can the saving of one year (if there be any) be carried forward in aid of the expenditure of the next. Repairs also to buildings are to be defrayed out of the sums granted.

It is to be understood, however, that the practice of paying fixed salaries to masters and mistresses, will be

Of the schools which may be called public ones, the Sydney College (erroneously called a college) is the best. The King's School at Parramatta, founded on the principle of a grammar school in England, has, I regret to say, fallen into disrepute—the late master (a clergyman of the Church of England) having become insolvent. The Australian College, founded by Dr. Lang on the model of the Scotch schools of the higher class, continues also in disrepute, and has almost ceased to exist, notwithstanding some efforts recently made to restore it.

Of the private schools, many deserve to be mentioned with commendation—particularly that of Mr. Cape in Sydney, and of Mr. Woolls at Parramatta.

Of the ladies' schools, there are also some which maintain a high character.

The recapitulation of private schools at page 406, if compared with that of the Blue Book for 1843, shows an increase in the year of 17 schools and of 114 male and 205 female scholars.

The number of public schools is increased by 21, and the number of scholars by 862 male, 1784 female.

The total number of schools in the colony was—

In 1842 - - - - -	257
1843 - - - - -	306
1844 - - - - -	355

The number of scholars was—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
In 1842 - -	6,196	4,978	11,174
1843 - -	6,700	5,359	12,059
1844 - -	7,857	6,615	14,472

—which, out of a population of 173,377 in the present year, gives rather less than one in every twelve.

XIX. Exchanges, Monies, &c.

The monies and weights in New South Wales are the same as in England.

Exchange on England does not usually vary more than it is presumed to do in other colonies. Good bills, however, were, during the latter part of 1844, at the unusual discount of six per cent.; they generally bear a premium of from one to four per cent.

Since 1842, a sad revulsion has taken place in the banking affairs of New South Wales, and all the evils been fearfully realized which I foresaw as likely to arise out of the extent to which the business of banking had been carried in the colony. Two banks at Sydney ceased to do business in 1843, and one at Port Phillip (see my Despatches of the 31st March and 6th May, 1843, Nos. 40 and 64).

The affairs of the Bank of Australia are still unsettled (See my Despatches, Nos. 1 and 2, of the 1st January, 1845).

The coin in the colony decreased from 476,867*l.* in 1842, to 439,772*l.* in 1843; but, according to the present return (p. 412), it has again increased, and now amounts to 579,923*l.*

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discontinued by the government as soon as possible, and that accordingly no salaries will be guaranteed by government to any masters or mistresses, who may be appointed after January 1, 1842; neither will rent be paid by government for any buildings that may be hired as school-houses after the same day, unless they shall previously have been used as such, it being considered that the providing of proper masters, mistresses, and buildings, should rest with the trustees, or committee of management of each school, rather than with the government.

It is further proposed, as soon as possible, to discontinue the extremely objectionable practice of paying one half-penny per diem, for children whose parents or friends pay nothing; and thus by these several alterations, gradually to bring all schools which receive aid from the government, under one system, as far, at least, as the receipt of that aid is concerned.

Schools in General.

In addition to the returns now furnished to the Auditor-General, a list will be required from each school, on the last day of every quarter, containing, in alphabetical order, the names of all the children who attend the school, their ages, and also the names, places of abode, and trade or calling of their parents, or nearest friends.

These lists will be sent, in Sydney, to an inspector of schools, to be appointed by the government; and in the country, to the police magistrate, or if there be none, to the clerk of the bench of the district, or other person appointed by the government; and such police magistrate, clerk of the bench, or other person, will act as inspector of schools within his district.

Duties of Inspectors of Schools.

The first duty of the inspector of any district will be, to make himself acquainted with the condition, in life, of all the parents or friends of the children attending the different schools, and he will mark on the list, which is to be furnished to him quarterly, his opinion, whether or not such parents require the assistance of government in the education of their children.

The Inspectors will further visit the different schools in their districts at uncertain times, but never less than twice in every month, and will muster the children, and compare the numbers present with the numbers entered on the registers of daily attendance kept by the masters or mistresses of the schools.

With the business of tuition, the inspectors will have no concern, neither will they exercise any control over the teacher or teachers, the object of their appointment being to watch over the financial, and not the educational business of the schools.

It will, nevertheless, be their duty to report to the Government, any irregularity or misconduct which may fall under their observation, and in transmitting the quarterly list to the Colonial Secretary, they will report generally on the way in which each school may appear to them to be managed.

By His Excellency's command,

E. Deas Thompson.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The paper money in circulation was—

In September, 1842	£192,577
,, 1843	155,521
And on the 31st December, 1844	164,882

At pages 417 to 421, are given the Quarterly Returns, which, under an Act of Council (4th Vict., No. 13), are made by the banks, and published in the colony. These Returns, however, do not show (as remarked in my previous Reports on the "Blue Books") what proportion of the discounted bills by the banks may be bad. It is acknowledged that a large portion of them are renewals.

The quantity of discounted paper held by the banks collectively was—

On the 30th September, 1842	£2,562,467
,, ,, 1843	2,000,809
And on the 31st December, 1844	1,583,137

The deposits were—

In 1842	£998,555
1843	812,600
1844	1,028,677

XX.—Imports and Exports.

The imports (Port Phillip included) were—

In 1842	£1,579,795
1843	1,380,481
1844	931,260

The exports (Port Phillip included) were—

In 1842	£1,095,935
1843	1,116,525
1844	1,128,115

The value of the exports having, for the first time in the history of the colony, exceeded the imports.

The export of wool from the whole colony was—

	lbs.	Value.
In 1842 . . .	9,557,905	£601,055
1843 . . .	11,866,706	659,300
1844 . . .	13,542,173	645,344

The valuation of the wool is made at the Custom-house.

At page 474 is a new Return, being that of the boiling-down establishments of New South Wales, or the establishments for boiling down cattle and sheep for their tallow or fat.

The number of establishments of this nature is 47.

The number of Horned Cattle slaughtered is - -	20,148
,, Sheep - - - - - -	217,797
The value of the Tallow exported was in 1843 - -	£9,639
,, ,, 1844 - -	83,511

XXI.—Agriculture.

The agricultural returns are not, I fear, much to be relied on; they give the produce of the colony as follows:

	1842	1843	1844
Wheat - - Bushels	832,766	852,532	1,000,225
Maize - - Ditto	503,803	590,134	719,358
Barley - - Ditto	90,172	88,767	95,658
Oats - - Ditto	62,704	84,327	92,268
Potatoes - - Tons	11,141	12,561	16,392
Tobacco - - Ditto	132	100	305
Hay - - - Ditto	17,175	15,015	24,158

Prices of all colonial produce have remained nearly stationary during the year 1844, but with a tendency to advance.

Return of Grain Imported.

	1842	1843	1844
Wheat - - - Bushels	174,706	275,441	265,704
Maize - - - Ditto	3,170	1,003	17
Barley, Oats, or Pease Ditto	93,510	59,532	35,194
Flour or Biscuits - Pounds	9,820,944	4,999,680	4,370,240
Rice - - - Ditto	1,184,237	2,280,432	260,228
Potatoes - - - Tons	1,284	1,077	1,085

XXII.—Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

The manufactures of the colony are few and unimportant. Cloth of the kind called "tweed" is the one of most importance.

The only mines are those of coal at Newcastle. The quantity raised has decreased considerably within the year.

The value of whale-oil brought into the harbours of the colony was,

In 1842 . . .	£117,500
1843 . . .	55,611
1844 . . .	52,531

The fishery is still rapidly declining.

XXIII.—Grants of Land, and Sales of Land.

No free grants of land have been made during the year, except a few acres for public purposes.

The quantity sold has still further decreased since the year 1843; but this is not so much, owing to the distressed state of the colony, as to the increased practice of what is called "squatting," or the feeding of sheep and cattle on the lands of the Crown.

The amount received for land was only 7402*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of remission to Naval and Military Settlers.

The total number of acres sold (including those on which remission was made to Naval or Military Settlers) was 4260.

XXIV. Gaols and Prisoners.

In respect to gaols, I beg to refer to my Despatch of the 17th November, 1842, No. 219.

XXV. Miscellaneous Returns.

From pages 507 to 520 are given some Miscellaneous Returns lately prepared for the Legislative Council. The following is a list of them:—

Pages.

509. Return of coin in the colony in each year from 1836 to 1843.
510. Return of the increase and decrease of the population in 1843.
511. Return of the value of imports from 1834 to 1843.
Return of the value of exports for the same period.
512. Return of the number and tonnage of vessels inwards from 1834 to 1843.
513. Return of the number and tonnage of vessels outwards from 1834 to 1843.
514. Return of land in cultivation, and of population, from 1834 to 1843.
515. Return of grain imported from 1834 to 1843.
Return of live stock imported during the same period.
516. Return of wool exported from 1834 to 1843.
Return of tallow exported during the year 1843.
517. Return of the export of oil from 1834 to 1843.
Return of the export of timber from 1834 to 1843.
Return of vessels built and registered from 1834 to 1843.
518. Return of auction duty and sales from 1834 to 1843.
Return of the sale of crown lands from 1834 to 1843.
519. Return of live stock in the colony on the 1st January, 1844.
520. Return of vineyards, wine, and brandy, for the year 1844.

Geo. Gipps.

Government House, Sydney, 8th May, 1845.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

[The Report from South Australia for 1845 not having been yet received, that for the year 1844 is substituted.]

(No. 60.) No. 31. No. 31.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Grey to the Right Hon. Lord Stanley.

Government House, Adelaide,
May 30, 1845.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the Blue Book for the year 1844; and I beg, at the same time, to be permitted to bring under your Lordship's notice the following remarks upon the present state and future prospects of this colony.

The ordinary revenue of South Australia is now considerably in excess of the public expenditure, and this exclusive of the land fund, which, for reasons which I will presently state, appears likely to yield considerable sums for many years to come. There appears also to be little probability of any very material

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

increase in the public expenditure being immediately required. The government establishments are, at present, even in some respects in advance of the existing requirements of the public service; and I have found that the same establishment which sufficed to carry on the public service when the European population amounted to less than 15,000 souls, is quite adequate to the wants of the province at the present time, when the same population amounts to upwards of 20,000 souls; and, with some very trifling additions, the same establishment would suffice for a population far in excess of that which we have at present.

There thus appears to be every probability of the revenue continuing to increase for the next few years without any corresponding augmentation in the government expenditure being necessary; and it may confidently be anticipated that this state of things will have some permanency;—the whole of the expenditure of the province being defrayed solely from its own resources, without any assistance being afforded from Great Britain in the form of an annual parliamentary grant, or of expenditure on account of convict services; so that there is no probability of any such crisis taking place as would result from the stoppage of a parliamentary grant, or from any diminution in convict expenditure.

With these prospects before the Local Government, there appears every reason to expect that the whole of the debts contracted by the previous governments will shortly be discharged, and that any changes, either in the nature of the duties now levied, or in the mode of collecting them, which may have the effect of removing any restrictions which might hereafter be found to act disadvantageously upon the commerce of the country, may be safely carried out, although such changes might produce some slight diminution in the revenue.

In considering the future in reference to the Land Fund, the prospects of South Australia are also very flattering. But a very small portion of the waste lands of the Crown has yet been granted to individuals, and some of the most valuable of these lands still remain vested in the Crown. Even in the vicinity of the capital of this province, large tracts of waste lands, which are already very valuable, and are constantly acquiring additional value, still remain unsold; whilst in the hilly districts those lands which, in the early stages of the colony, were considered to be so rocky and sterile as to be worthless, are now, in many instances, realising for the government large sums of money on account of the minerals which they contain. The wealth yielded from the mines which have yet been opened, has also enabled the proprietors of them to contribute considerable sums to the land fund by the purchase of other lands; and there appears to be every probability that operations of this kind will be of frequent occurrence.

I think that, for these reasons, Her Majesty's Government may confidently anticipate that a large annual revenue will be derived from the sale of the waste lands of this province, one moiety of which being applied, according to the terms of the recent Act of Parliament for regulating this subject, in bringing out British emigrants, will afford a constant increase to the population of the country. and a continued supply of labourers to meet the increased demands of the settlers; whilst the remaining portion of the land fund, which, under the terms of your lordship's instructions, is applicable to public improvements, will afford the Government the means of building bridges, making roads, and improving the general internal communications of the country, without any additional taxes or rates being imposed upon its inhabitants for these purposes, except for the execution of such works as may be considered of a local character.

From the foregoing observations, your Lordship will perceive that a very happy and prosperous future apparently lies before the inhabitants of this country, and that they ought to have few valid reasons for discontent or dissatisfaction. I fear, however, that the value of the mineral lands of this country, and the desire that speculative and designing persons will feel to possess themselves of these lands at a merely nominal price, with the intention of realising exorbitant profits by the re-sale of them, will call into existence a class of speculators and traffickers in mining shares, whose constant endeavour will be to excite public discontent against any regulations for the sale of lands which may be in force. The interests of individuals of this class will, generally

speaking, be quite opposed to those of the inhabitants of the province at large, as their object will be to acquire valuable mineral lands at a nominal price, and then to quit the colony for the purpose of re-selling their property in these mines in the European market.

The only other points connected with the circumstances of the colony to which I need direct your Lordship's attention, are, firstly, the large exports of copper and lead which are now taking place; and, secondly, the number of individuals who are arriving here from the neighbouring settlements.

The exports of copper and lead appear likely to be highly beneficial to the mother country, as well as to this colony. The whole of this ore is at present sent to England in British shipping, and in a manner highly profitable to the British merchant; for the vessels engaged in the wool trade require, on account of the lightness of their cargo, a large supply of ballast, which formerly not only realised no freight, but from its bulk considerably reduced the capacity of the vessel for carrying cargo; whilst at the present time the lead and copper ore shipped at Port Adelaide for Great Britain not only forms ballast for the wool ships of a very superior description, but yields the merchant a profit in the form of the freight which is paid upon this ore. A singular and unlooked-for advantage has resulted to the province from this circumstance; for the various vessels bound from hence to Great Britain, which take on board lead and copper ore for ballast, are obliged to discharge their ballast at Port Adelaide, and the means are thus afforded to the Government of forming excellent roads of stone, brought from almost every portion of the globe, across a swamp which lies between the port and the capital, and formerly opposed a serious obstacle to the commerce of the country. South Australian copper and lead ore has been found to form so advantageous a ballast for wool-ships, that it is now generally taken as ballast in the colonial traders to Sydney, where it is transhipped on board the wool-ships bound for London.

With regard to the second point which I propose to notice in this Despatch, that is, to the number of persons now arriving in this province from the neighbouring British settlements, my Despatches, of the numbers and dates specified in the margin, afforded your Lordship full information upon this subject. There can be no doubt that so long as the rate of remuneration given in this colony to persons employed in agricultural and pastoral pursuits, or in mining operations, is in excess of that which is paid to persons similarly employed in the neighbouring settlements, a large number of persons will annually pass into this colony from New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and Western Australia.

No. 13, Jan. 16, 1845; No. 49, April 19, 1845.

I have, &c.,

G. GREY, Lieut.-Governor.

Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

[The Report of Western Australia for 1845 not having been yet received, that for the year 1844 has been substituted.]

(No. 11.) No. 32. No. 32.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hutt, to the Right Honourable Lord Stanley.

Western Australia,
Perth, 28th March, 1845.

My Lord,

1. I have the honour to lay before your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of this colony for the past year, 1844. The information it affords, though of a mixed character, is in the main favourable. The trials and difficulties which have been brought upon the settlers from various causes during the last two or three years have somewhat retarded the progressive advance which they appeared at one time to be making, but have also necessitated them to seek for resources within themselves, and have proved that this country posseses elements of strength and wealth which are being gradually

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

developed, and must eventually render this one of the most valuable settlements in Australia.

2. A comparison between the state and condition of the colony in 1843 and 1844 shows an improvement to have taken place under the following heads:—

Population in 1843	3,853
„ 1844	4,108
Increase	255
Stock of all kinds in 1843	87,938
„ 1844	98,018
Increase	10,080
Acres under Cultivation in 1843	3,858
„ 1844	4,867
Increase	1,009

	£	s.	d.
Value of Exports in 1843	7,088	15	0
„ 1844	13,343	15	0
Increase	6,255	0	0

Under other heads there has been a falling off:—

The tonnage of ships entered inwards in 1843	17,130
„ „ in 1844	10,002
Decrease	7,128

This return, with some very trifling exceptions, answers also for the amount of tonnage of the ships for the same period, entered outwards.

	£	s.	d.
The value of the Imports in 1843	37,486	0	0
„ 1844	36,440	0	0
Decrease	1,046	0	0

	£	s.	d.
The amount of the Revenue in 1843	10,311	18	6
„ 1844	7,740	19	5
Decrease	2,570	19	1

There has been at the same time a correspondent reduction in the expenditure—

	£.	s.	d.
Which, including the charges defrayed by the Parliamentary grant, and others which were met by a loan from the Commissariat, and a balance in the colonial chest, amounted in 1843, to	20,815	5	9
In 1844, including together with the Parliamentary grant, a trifling balance in the chest, it amounted to	14,562	16	3
Decrease	6,252	9	6

This is a serious diminution in the small revenue and expenditure of this colony, and might have occasioned considerable embarrassment but for the prompt measures which were taken by the Legislative Council in the course of the Session of last year, so soon as the continuous and decided defalcation in the monthly receipts showed itself.

3. The circumstances which have led to this change in the colonial finances are not difficult to discover. The population, small in itself, and of which the females of all ages are only as three to four males, increases very slowly. The addition made to its numbers during the last two years has been more from births than from immigration. No settlers with capital have arrived, who, in the formation of fresh establishments might relieve the farmer from his extra stock and produce; whilst, until quite recently no foreign market has been sought for the disposal of such articles as the colony had the means of exporting; and the inevitable results ensued in a country where everybody is engaged

directly or indirectly in agriculture or grazing, and where these pursuits meet with no check, for the climate is so mild that a shelter of a roof is only occasionally required, and the seasons succeed each other as regularly as day and night, the supply of the necessaries of life being much more than adequate to the home consumption, at length outstripped the demand, and prices rapidly fell. The average market value of produce, throughout the two years respectively, was, in—

		1839			1844		
		£.	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wheat	per bushel	0	12	0	0	6	0
Breeding ewes . .	per head	5	0	0	0	10	0
Wethers	„	1	10	0	0	7	6
Horses	„	70	0	0	30	0	0
Cows	„	28	0	0	10	0	0
Butchers' meat . .	per lb.	0	1	4	0	0	4½
Bakers' bread . .	„	0	0	5	0	0	2½
Potatoes	per cwt.	1	5	0	0	8	0

and the average rate of the Commissariat tenders for the supply of the military was, in—

		1839		1844	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Meat	per lb.	1	1	0	2½
Wheat	per bushel	12	0	5	9½

Whilst the nominal value of each land and stockholder's property was ruinously reduced, other causes were operating to their serious disadvantage. The amount of labour in the country is yearly diminished by the women marrying and the men becoming tenants or proprietors of land in their own right; but the gaps they leave not being filled up by any regular influx of immigration, it takes a long time before wages can sink to a proper level with prices and profits; in addition to which many persons, trusting to a continuance of prosperous times, have, with a view of improving their estates, borrowed money at the enormous rate of 12 and 15 per cent. interest. Their strength and resources are now diminished, but these burdens have still to be borne. The embarrassments of the settlers will in time disappear, but we must bear further in mind, that colonial productions are gradually displacing imported goods. Already on some farms in the country districts the only articles used which they do not provide within themselves are, tea, coffee, sugar, tobacco for sheep-washing, and soap, and efforts have been made to manufacture the last, with some success. With a knowledge of these facts, we cannot be surprised at a considerable decrease taking place in a revenue, of which the largest portion is derived from the collection of the customs on foreign goods, which the colonists are no longer necessitated, nor in a condition to consume as formerly.

4. The glut of produce in the home colonial market, to which alone until quite recently the farmers and graziers had access, though a chief, was not the sole cause of the distress which has pervaded the community. Another, and a most pernicious evil, was the system of paper credit which prevailed. All money transactions, whether of a commercial or domestic nature, were carried on by means of bills at three and six months' date, and which were repeatedly renewed; every one lived beyond their income; goods to a large amount were introduced, which found a ready sale on these terms, and habits of extravagance were engendered. But the day of reckoning at last came, and thus the flourishing state of the colony, on which so many expectations had been raised, was discovered to be more apparent than real. The colonists discovered that they had deceived themselves in supposing that they were always to be in the enjoyment of extravagant prices, or to have it in their power to raise money on bills whenever they might require it. I also found that I had fallen into a grievous error, since I had mistaken expenditure for wealth, and the misuse of credit for the existence and possession of capital, and had gone on from year to year framing the Estimates of the receipt and expenditure accordingly. The bill

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

system, and the delusion which accompanied it, have been happily suppressed, and the store-keepers and agents have adopted the wiser method of selling by retail for ready money only. This recourse, however, to cash payments has added another to the difficulties of the settlers, as they not only have to meet present expenses, but also to discharge, from limited monied means, debts contracted on the faith of almost unlimited paper credit.

5, Thus harassed, prevented, by reason of the abundance which prevails, from disposing, in an emergency, of any of their property, and with the heavy interest on mortgages clinging to them, the people have for some time struggled on. Fortunately the principal creditors have been in the country, and, by the exercise of mutual kindness and forbearance, misfortune and ruin to any great extent have been arrested. Had there been any large foreign claimants to urge on them demands, without regard to consequences, nothing could have saved the community from one general bankruptcy. The trial has been a severe one, but the business of the colony has been placed on a safer and more permanent footing; and there are, I think, symptoms of improvement discernible, which indicate that the worst is past. It has had also the good effect of rousing the colonists to exertion; a proof of this may be seen in the amount of the exports. The difference in value of the exports of 1844 over those of 1843, is 6255*l.*, being an increase of 95 per cent. The great bulk of these exports will be sent to England; but a trade is rising up with the Isle of France and other places in the Indian Ocean, and efforts are making to carry it on in colonial vessels, of which there are seven now afloat, and two more building, altogether of about 703 tons burthen. The extremely favourable nature of the climate has led to an extensive cultivation of the vine, and that of the olive is following close in its train. It is reckoned that upwards of 5000 gallons of wine will be made this year, besides some cwts. of raisins, and several gallons of oil, all of which are at present intended for private consumption; but dried fruits will, in the course of the next twelve months, appear among the exports, and with a little more time and experience, wine and olive oil will be added to the list.

6. So far the prospects of the colony are promising, but the expectations to which they would otherwise give rise, are likely to be marred by the greater attractions which South Australia holds out to individuals of the working-class. Many of our labourers have proceeded thither, and more are threatening to go. The greatest boon which could be conferred upon Western Australia, at this critical period, would be the promotion of some work by the Government by which the introduction of capital should be encouraged and money circulated, and to which individuals seeking employment might have recourse, when from some sudden check, such as has been lately experienced, work became slack either in the towns or on the farms. The immense forests of this country furnish a ready and immediate opportunity of doing this. A report has reached the colony that the Admiralty have determined to admit Western Australian timber into Her Majesty's dock-yards. Should this be confirmed, the colonists could have nothing more to desire. Their poverty, and consequent incapacity for any great and lasting attempt to better themselves, would be at once relieved, and a source of wealth, which many years labour could not exhaust, would be laid open to them.

7. The sale of Crown lands in this colony for money payments, except as regards town allotments, has ceased. No one thinks of making purchases in the rural districts, unless he can do so by means of remission certificates. As regards this falling off in the land sales, I see no grounds for changing the opinion I have always expressed to your Lordship, that the price per acre, as now fixed by Act of Parliament, has not at all affected them, but that it would be surprising rather if public land could be disposed of in a country where there is no fresh or redundant capital seeking employment or a safe investment, and where from private individuals, or through remission certificates, land in almost any quantity, and in select situations, can at all times be obtained.

I have, &c.

JOHN HUTT.

Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 5.) No. 33.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 33.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone to Governor Clarke.

Downing-street,
14th January, 1846.

Sir,

Having caused an extract of so much of Governor Hutt's despatch of the 28th March last, No. 11, as related to the admission of West Australian timber into Her Majesty's dockyards in this country, to be forwarded for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, their Lordships have apprised me that a contract has been entered into for the supply of 400 loads of blue gum timber from the colony, to be delivered at Chatham Dockyard, subject to the approval of the authorities there.

Their Lordships have further stated that this delivery has not yet taken place, and therefore that they deem it expedient to wait the result of the above-mentioned contract, before taking any measures for obtaining a further supply of such timber.

I have, &c.,

Governor Clarke, Western Australia, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

(No. 58 *a*.) No. 34.

No. 34.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Fitzroy to Lord Stanley.

Government House, Auckland,
30th August, 1845.

My Lord,

In reporting, however briefly, on the general state of this colony at the end of the year 1844, as required by my instructions, I will not refer to any date subsequent to the end of December in that year; but I will ask permission to add a short supplementary Report on the state of these islands at this present time.

At the beginning of 1844 the colony of New Zealand was suffering from a general exhaustion of financial resources, not only on the part of the settlers, but of the local Government; and the shock caused by the fatally disastrous affray at Wairau had disunited the two races in a lamentable manner.

Capital was not to be found, except in the hands of a branch of the Union Bank of Australia, which, by a considerable issue of paper (convertible into specie at its own establishment solely), and by a peculiar system of management, was not promoting the general welfare of the colony.

Scarcely any titles to land were then confirmed—many had not even been investigated; therefore very little return of value could be obtained from land; and settlers were living on the remains of their almost exhausted capital. A few commission agents of mercantile establishments elsewhere kept up a limited trade, but too much on credit. Government payments were four months in arrear, and had been very irregular,—they could not be otherwise under such a complicated state of affairs as the peculiar, the unprecedented circumstances of New Zealand brought on every interest, on every person connected with the country.

But the greatest detriment to the progress of the settlers sent out by the New Zealand Company was the absolute impossibility of obtaining sufficient land for their location, without taking forcible possession of that which the native owners asserted had not been purchased from themselves. This caused the energies of the finest body of colonists that ever left Great Britain to be frittered away in idle pastimes within the limits of scattered wooden towns, and the beaches near those towns to be so strewed with broken bottles that it was dangerous to walk there.

Active, intelligent, and educated young men were destitute of profitable occupation, totally disappointed—perhaps ruined—and with the world's diameter separating them from their families.

Under these circumstances, the greatest allowances should be made for the state

NEW ZEALAND.

of feeling which prompted such constant demands, that the settlers should be put in possession of their lands (as they considered them to be) by the local Government, even by force.

They did not then believe that such a course was not only impracticable, but that it would have brought immediate and total destruction, not only on themselves, but in all probability on all the settlements, perhaps on all the white people in New Zealand.

In the northern part of the country settlers were generally prevented from cultivating land to any extent for want of means, and from gloomy forebodings as to the future.

Those who had been many years in the country knew well that moral influence was fast waning, and that physical force must sooner or later be employed, not aggressively, but in self-defence.

Many of the older settlers had exhausted their means in large purchases of land, which they were not permitted to retain, and could not therefore re-sell at a profit. Many of the more recent colonists had paid so highly for very limited portions of land, at Government land sales, that they had no means of cultivating or building upon them properly.

Early in the year, it became a question of deep anxiety in the minds of the Executive Government, whether to stop payment altogether (beyond the very limited and inadequate receipt of revenue), and break up the greater part of the Government establishment, or adopt some means of keeping the absolutely necessary parts of the machine going, until express instructions could be received from England. Payments on account of public service being then six months in arrear, and having no hopes of being able to raise anything like an adequate revenue, on account of the small number and exhausted condition of the settlers (their total number, including men, women and children, not exceeding 12,000), it was at last decided that payments should be made in debentures.

So much has been said about these debentures, both officially and privately, that I will now only remark, that they have saved the colony from ruin, and many a poor family from death by starvation.

From the time of paying up arrears by means of debentures, the colony began to revive from its lethargy, and a more substantial impetus was given by the opening view of rich mineral stores, and of a future growth of valuable wool.

It had been naturally foreseen that oil and whalebone, however valuable as a present export, could not be depended on as a future resource; and that the freight of timber, or any kind of wood, excepting first-rate spars, and some small quantities of ornamental or hard-wood, must materially check its exportation to any distant part of the world.

The discovery of valuable minerals, the suitability of the country for wool-growing, and the hope that flax, both native and European, would become valuable, cheered many of the settlers, and induced them to think less of the financial embarrassments of the Government, or of the much more important question, their relations with the aborigines.

While commercial prospects were brightening, and exports increasing, a storm was gathering in the north.

Ever since the establishment of British authority at the Bay of Islands, in 1840, there had been, on the part of many natives, a growing wish, sedulously fostered by designing white men, to disclaim the Queen's Sovereignty. From year to year this feeling grew, and the malcontents became more bold, till, in July, 1844, the Chief Heki openly defied the authority of Her Majesty, and cut down the flag-staff.

Thisoutbreak was temporarily quelled, and apparent peace restored; but it was evident to the Government, that the secret agency of white men was still actively at work, endeavouring to stimulate the natives to more decided insurrection. However, in the northern as well as in the southern districts of the colony, the unceasing exertions of the Government, and the religious bodies, were successful, under Providence, in preventing any further outbreak or collision, and the year ended in peace.

Notwithstanding the financial difficulties of the Government, and the suspension of the New Zealand Company's payments, no extreme distress was caused by destitution in any part of the colony.

Assistance from Government, and the liberal private contributions of those few

who could give money (debentures I should say), provided useful employment for the able-bodied, and prevented the weak and helpless from dying in want and misery.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT FITZROY, Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Supplementary to No. 58 *a*.) No. 35.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor FITZROY to Lord STANLEY.

Government House, Auckland,
MY LORD, August 30, 1845.

I BEG to be permitted to make a few remarks on the present state of the colony, with reference to my report accompanying the Blue Book for 1844.

In the southern division of New Zealand, the state of affairs is much as it was during the latter part of 1844, excepting that the actual strength of the aborigines is now known and anxiously borne in mind, which, however sad and painful the reflection, may tend towards preventing collision between the races in that locality.

In the neighbourhood of Auckland and at New Plymouth, tranquillity prevails, notwithstanding the alarm and general excitement among people of both races, caused by the rebellion and warfare in the north.

At Auckland commercial activity prevails. Every vessel carries away a full cargo. A brisk export trade in Kauri gum has sprung up, which, with minerals, timber and flax, will completely fill every vessel that comes here for native produce.

The supply of gum cannot be exhausted for many years.

There are now two ships, one of 360 and the other of 500 tons, about to load here for England direct, besides other vessels for the neighbouring colonies.

In the north, at the Bay of Islands, the inevitable effects of warfare prevail. A blockade of the port, and forces in the field, prevent any trade.

The chiefs Heke and Kawiti are not augmenting their strength or increasing their influence, but the contrary.

Time, and even the passive display of force, are operating against them, while they are building new pahs in the interior, surrounded by woods, and are suffering great privations.

The great trial of New Zealand character,—whether common cause would be made by the coloured against the white men,—has proved that, with justice on our side, there will not be a general combination against us, if we are sufficiently defended against malcontents to prevent their succeeding in the first instance, and the consequent temptation to plunder and lawlessness held out by their success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT FITZROY, Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley,
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

(No. 56.) No. 36.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. GOMM, K.C.B., to LORD STANLEY.

MY LORD, Mauritius, 9th March, 1846.

The completion of the Annual "Blue Book" of the colony not being found practicable earlier than the middle, or, perhaps, towards the close, of April, I am apprehensive that I shall not be acting in the spirit of instructions furnished me by your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 24th September, if I delay the transmission of my General Report upon the condition of the colony to such period; I therefore determined upon laying it before your Lordship in the interim.

MAURITIUS.

In proceeding to particularize, while treating of the various concerns of the colony, the subject which stands most prominently forward and courting observation to the full extent recorded in my last year's Report, is the same, that of Immigration, and reverting to the terms in which I dilated upon it in that Despatch, No. 55, of the 1st April, I feel that I cannot possibly place the matter in a more correct point of view, to my own apprehension, before your Lordship, as it exists at this moment, or that I could withdraw or modify any of the statements therein made, without impairing some essential feature of the Report I am now to make. The same struggle is on foot for obtaining a complete and radical change in the system in operation; in other words, for a return to promiscuous introduction by the merchants for the special supply of labour to the estates in which they are interested, and an extension of the term of engagement as a necessary condition. The same reluctance to contribute, except upon such conditions, by an exertion of their own, to the increase of funds whereby alone the increased introduction of labour which they demand can be defrayed; the same exaggerated complaints of the insufficiency of means placed at their disposal at the public charge in this respect, whereby a crop of eighty millions of pounds were gathered in last year, and a hundred millions, or little short of it, this.

On the other hand, I feel the same confidence in the wholesome working of the system as it exists, fortified with measures recently brought into operation by the local legislature, for the repression of extreme licentiousness with regard to absenteeism among the labouring population; and I look with confidence to the measures which Her Majesty's Government, in concert with that of India, may judge proper to adopt, grounded upon my numerous representations made to your Lordship throughout the year, showing the vast numbers withdrawn from agriculture, and early departure to their homes to such extent, all introduced at such heavy expense to the colony, and for the sole purpose, and with the expectation of its having the benefit of their services through a five years' sojourn in it, and these devoted to the cultivation of the cane.

On the subject of finance my various Reports will have been already before your Lordship. The monetary circulation continues in a state very similar to that reported upon last year; the British silver coin of higher value being reserved almost wholly for payment of the revenue, that of smallest description and the rupee universally current, the latter passing in all money transactions at the conventional value imposed upon it by importers, of two shillings, and tendered to, and readily accepted by, the Indians in payment of wages, at that value, but admitted and re-issued at the public offices of Government and Treasury only at the authorized rate of 1*s.* 10*d.* British.

The banks have greatly restricted their operations throughout the year, and continue, as recently reported to your Lordship, in Despatch No. 40, of the 19th ultimo, in a state of absolute stagnation, so far as the public at large is concerned, to its manifest and serious embarrassment.

In the judicial branch of administration I am aware that much is in preparation for laying before the local council, and for transmission to Her Majesty's Government at an early day. It the meantime the promulgation of the Royal Order in Council determining the period from which the English language shall claim ascendancy in the courts of law, is already working most beneficially for the colony in every sense; and the reasonableness of the requisition, after so many years of forbearance, has already ceased to be contested by parties most interested, fairly regarding the measure, and its obvious and infallible tendency still more intimately and effectually to endow the colony with the substantial benefits deriving from British rule and protection.

Under the head of Public Works, of three important ones reported last year as being in a state of forwardness, two are completed, the bazaar in Port Louis, and the bridge over Grand River, north-west; and the civil prisons' additions only wait the arrival of a portion of the materials from England for early completion.

A great object of solicitude with me at the present moment is the enlargement and improvement of the general civil hospital, the inadequacy of which provision, under the altered circumstances of the colony, is painfully manifesting itself from day to day; and I shall regard all pressing considerations involving expense as secondary to this great public need, until it shall have been adequately provided for.

The state of health generally of the colony throughout the year has been very satisfactory; that of the labouring population will have been so shown to your

Lordship by my successive monthly reports. Small-pox continues to manifest its presence, but little more, and its prevalence is effectually kept down to the lowest ebb by a vigilant medical supervision.

In the province of education the stimulus afforded by your Lordship's acceding to the measure of sending a scholar from the Royal College annually for the completion of his studies in England; and to the extent solicited from your Lordship at the outset, is attended with very favourable results, not only in the College itself, but in the schools generally.

Some misunderstanding has occurred on the score of expense with respect to the young men so deputed at the commencement, but the council will make it their business promptly to rectify this error, and to guard against its recurrence.

The progress made in the cultivation of the English language in the course of the year has been remarkable at the Royal College, and considerable in all the minor establishments of education, and will receive an additional and enduring stimulus from Her Majesty's recent Order in Council.

In both religious establishments the colony has been making satisfactory advances throughout the year. Roman Catholic churches are in progress of erection, suitable to the increased wants of the population, in the Poudre d'Or district and at Mahaboux; Anglican churches in the Moka and Plaine's Wilhem's district, also much needed in each.

The Roman Catholic clergy officiating in the colony have been increased to their full complement by their active and zealous superior; and I trust that the local government will have ground afforded it, at no distant day, for soliciting some increase to the ministry of the Church of England, for the effectual service of its additional places dedicated to Divine worship.

An important and interesting portion of the community would yet remain to be reported upon on this occasion, had I not so recently done this in a separate report called for by your Lordship, my Despatch, No 5, of the 7th January, that of the emancipated classes.

With respect to a more authenticated Report of their actual numbers at the present day, I have still to solicit your Lordship's indulgence, until the projected census of the whole island population shall have been carried through.

The interruption continued since the middle of the last year to our leading relations with Madagascar has occasioned inconvenience and a considerable rise, necessarily, in the price of animal food, an inconvenience still more seriously felt in the neighbouring island of Bourbon; but it is hoped that these relations will be re-established at no distant day, on a more secure and more liberal footing, on the part of the barbarian power, deferring to the joint requisitions of Her Majesty's Government and that of France.

The adequate and regularly sustained supply of rice to the colony continues to be an object of solicitude. Your Lordship will have seen from my Despatch, No. 43, of the 21st ultimo, that I have received encouraging replies from the merchants engaged in its importation, very recently; but I fear it is a matter depending upon a variety of contingencies difficult to provide against by Government, so long as the mass of the proprietors and cultivators of land continue so little impressed with the uncertainty of these. Efforts, however, are making by the Government, and bodies specially charging themselves with the object—encouragement of the cultivation of provisions in the colony for its own consumption.

The progress already made under the description of market-gardening, I have had occasion to report to your Lordship in my Despatch above adverted to, of the 7th January (No. 5). The progressive state of agriculture also in the colony, in its more extended sense, will have been abundantly shown by its return of exports for the year. Hitherto, the prospect continues highly promising for the next. A considerable portion of the season exposed to the ravages of hurricane has passed over; while rains sufficient for the present sustentation of the advancing crops have fallen, but not hitherto in the abundance requisite to ensure the plantations against the not less injurious effects of even partial drought. These may be reasonably looked for in the remainder of the present, and through the course of the coming month.

To sum up my Report, the numerous Despatches which I have submitted to your Lordship throughout the year that has elapsed since the transmission of my last annual Report, all bearing upon the fortunes of the colony, cannot but have impressed your Lordship, and Her Majesty's Government generally, most favourably with respect to its actual condition and prospects.

MAURITIUS.

And, looking back to the period at which Sir Lionel Smith felt himself justified in so reporting of the colony, at the close of 1841; and looking to the aids of all kinds with which it has been visited throughout the last three years; the unexampled accession of labour from abroad; diminution, totally unlooked for to like amount, of sugar duties at home; extraordinary favour of the seasons, and high prices maintained for the greatly increased and hourly increasing productions of the soil, it would be difficult to fail of arriving at the conclusion, that the island is in a state of enviable and advancing prosperity, and every individual connected, however remotely, with its fortunes, sharing in the general welfare.

Of the correctness of the first portion of such conclusion, I believe there is little room for doubt, as there would, perhaps, be of the latter, but for the peculiar position of Mauritius in its relations with respect to property, originating in the encouragement given to sugar cultivation by the equalization of its import duties in England with those of the West Indies, and the consequent influx of British capital for the alimentation and expansion of its resources. Great adventure has ensued universally, and consequent embarrassment, irremediable in too many cases, where adverse influences have come unawares into operation.

The improvident disposal of the Compensation Grant can hardly be classed among these, as not being of inevitable occurrence; but the early close brought to the term of apprenticeship, the sudden check imposed upon immigration, and the largely defective crop of the season 1842-3, constitute a series of reverses occurring in rapid succession, sufficient, perhaps, to affect the stability of well-grounded fortunes, but shaking those upon which by far the greater part of fortunes in Mauritius are based, to their centre; for these are, in fact, grounded upon advances, and advances bound up with such conditions as I have endeavoured to make apparent to your Lordship in my Desptaches, No. 35, of the 18th, and 41, of the 20th ultimo; such as reduce the party benefitted to a state of vassalage and dependence, in a variety of cases, wholly beyond redemption.

These relations have, moreover, been vitally affected by the course of proceeding which Her Majesty's Government have prescribed for my maintaining, and which I hold to be of paramount consequence to the real interests of the colony undeviatingly to adhere to, in my transactions with the banks and monied interests, launched abroad upon schemes wholly factitious through seasons past, and reducing the Government, and all other parties in the community, to a state of financial embarrassment almost inextricable. The axe laid to the root of this evil, by replacing the banks in their legitimate position, so far as their dealings with the Government are concerned, has affected enterprise far and wide, and borne most heavily, and necessarily so, upon the planting interest, mainly sustained by the facilities of former credits, with all their penalties attaching to them, almost without limit.

Thus, although the crop of 1843 was a very fair one, that of 1844, the largest which the colony has ever despatched home, and that of 1845 has exceeded it to vast amount, reaching to 50,000 tons; while all this has been effected with the average of wages at 14*s.* per month, which Sir Lionel Smith states in the Report above referred to, as having, in many instances, amounted to 2*l.* sterling per month for the common field labourer; and while a crop is on the ground, and making fast advances towards security, promising even greatly to exceed the present one gathered in. Your Lordship is approached with an address, proceeding from a body of no less consideration in the colony than the majority of the unofficial members of the Council, representing, in the form of a protest, against an ordinance "for better regulating the rights and duties of masters and servants;" that its utter ruin is impending through an obstinate perseverance in a system which has been productive of such results, and can only be averted by its speedy and absolute relinquishment.

I submit, that the key to such apparent inconsistency between the protestations of parties of such weight and facts manifest to all, is to be sought for among the peculiar relations in which the so-called proprietary body, by far the larger portion of it, as shown to your Lordship in a return accompanying my Despatch, No, 41, above referred to, stand with the parties who sustain them; thus estimating the general prosperity of the island by the measure of their individual obligations, or those of parties whose cause they represent, to their agencies and supporters; and I fear that with very many so involved, the most fortunate combinations of circumstances can little avail; and change is sought for from whence no benefit could possibly derive to them, only because they do not find

their profit through a course perhaps the best calculated to advance it, if any could.

It is even conjectured that a crisis affecting many, both of the mercantile and planting interest, may be at hand, owing to such a complication of causes; contrasting strangely with the productiveness with which the island is teeming.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) Wm. GOMM, Lieut.-Gen.

CEYLON.

(No. 43.)

No. 37.

Extract of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. Campbell, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, dated Pavilion, Kandy, April 14th, 1846.

I have now the honour of transmitting the "Blue Book" for the year 1845, which I had hoped to have forwarded by the mail of last month, but have been prevented by the difficulty of obtaining some of the Returns, arising in one instance from the burning of the cutcherry and its papers, at Badulla, and in other cases owing to the unusual prevalence of sickness at this season, amongst the clerks in the public offices.

I am induced to take this occasion to request, that if it lead to no practical inconvenience, the "Blue Book" of this colony may be considered due in future in the month of April instead of March. The accounts of the colony are now becoming so voluminous, that it is scarcely in the power of the treasurer and the auditor to compile and furnish the necessary Returns so soon after the close of the financial year as the month of March, and some further time is required after the receipt of them by the Government, for the preparation of the remarks which are expected to accompany them to England.

It gives me much satisfaction to take this the first opportunity since his Lordship's arrival, to bear testimony to the zeal, feeling, and ability with which the Bishop of Colombo has entered upon the discharge of his most important duties, and to express my conviction that his appointment cannot but have the happiest effect upon the religious interests of the colony. It will at all times be my endeavour to render him that cordial support which he has a right to look for from the Executive Government. His Lordship, at my solicitation, accepted the office of President of the School Commission, and has applied himself with activity to its superintendence. It gives me pleasure to be able to state, that through the efforts of that body, education is gradually but steadily extending, and that I at all times meet with the cordial assent of the Legislative Council to the increased grants for which I have in consequence to apply. I shall, however, on the occasion of bringing forward the supply ordinance for the year 1847, direct a commission to inquire and report upon the whole expenditure for purposes of education, as I am not without apprehension that too large a proportion of the public funds is at present appropriated for teaching in the higher branches; and it is to me very questionable whether, while the mass of the population is in a state of gross ignorance, the Government is justified is providing a liberal education, almost entirely at the public expense, for more than a very limited number of scholars.

The Bishop of Colombo.

Education.

It will be seen from the returns now sent that the revenue for the year 1845 exceeded that of 1844 by the sum of 10,000*l.* only—viz., for 1844, 442,000*l.*, for 1845, 452,000*l.*; and this in consequence chiefly of a falling off in the revenue from cinnamon of 50,000*l.* In the revenue from sea customs, setting aside the loss on the export of cinnamon, there is an increase of 23,000*l.* And in the value of the imports of 1845, there is an increase over those of 1844 of 129,000*l.*; of which 68,000*l.* is on the trade with England, 48,000*l.* with British possessions, and 12,000*l.* with foreign states. The exports also show an increase in value of 51,000*l.*, of which 23,000*l.* is on the trade with England, 23,000*l.* with British possessions, and 5,000*l.* with foreign states. The comparative decrease in the revenue from the duty on and sale of cinnamon is attributable both to the termination of the monthly sales of the government stock, and also to the unusual extent of the exports of 1844, owing to the reduction of the duty to 1*s.* per lb. in that year. It is a question of much importance, whether this duty ought to be

Revenue.

Customs.

Imports.

Exports.

Cinnamon.

CEYLON.

retained or not, amounting as it does from 50 to 75 per cent, on the value of the commodity in this market; and I have recently received from Mr. Wodehouse, the Government agent for the Western Province, a strong representation of the propriety of at once placing cinnamon on the same footing as other articles of export, which pay an *ad valorem* duty of 2½ per cent. only.

The subject is one of great importance, and it is my intention to include it in an early review of the entire system of taxation in the colony, to which Lord Stanley has directed my attention, and to which I purpose to address myself forthwith.

Garden Farms.

The deficiency under the head of "Garden Farms" arises from the rent of the Marendahn Cinnamon Plantation having been paid early in the present year, instead of in 1845.

Salt.

The only other decrease of importance is under the head of Salt, and this owing principally to the falling off in the export trade. From intelligence which I have received from Calcutta, there seems reason to fear that the Indian market is considerably overstocked, and that there is little prospect of an export from Ceylon during the present year. I do not, however, anticipate any falling off of importance in the salt revenue, as the demand for internal consumption is increasing.

Paddy tax, tolls, &c. &c.

On the other hand, under the heads of Paddy and Fine Grain Farms, Tolls, Arrack and Toddy Farms, and Blank Stamps, there is a very considerable advance, arising out of the increased wealth and traffic in the colony; and I have reason to hope that our financial affairs will continue in so prosperous a condition as to enable the Government, with comparative safety, to effect such reforms of the system of taxation as may appear necessary from the revision recommended by Lord Stanley.

Expenditure.

It will be seen that the expenditure of the year, as compared with that of 1844, has greatly increased—viz., of 1844, 374,000*l.*, of 1845, 450,000*l.*; and that it

Surplus of 1843—4.

has apparently nearly equalled the revenue. But it is to be remembered that a large sum from the surplus of former years has this year been expended under the authority of ordinances passed by the Legislative Council for the appropriation of portions of the surplus revenue of the years 1843 and 1844; and which sum, though charged as a part of the expenditure of the past year, will not have to be defrayed out of its revenue. While, at the same time, by that special appropriation, so liberal a provision has been made for the opening and repairing of roads, as to render any additional special appropriation for that service for the present unnecessary. In order that you may be made acquainted with the precise surplus of the revenue of the year over its actual expenditure, I shall direct a return to be made out, showing the amount of special expenditure, and shall transmit it by the mail of next month.

I also considered myself justified, by the state of our finances, in incurring charges which the wants of the colony demanded; but which, if our funds had been low, might, though with inconvenience, have been avoided or postponed. I

Commissariat stores.

allude to the additional expenditure in the departments of the Civil Engineer, the Commissioner of Roads, and the Deputy Commissary-General. In the case of the two former departments, the works undertaken have been carefully selected, and fully approved by both Councils. While I have reason to hope that, from the large purchases of building materials and stores by the Deputy Commissary-General, a considerable diminution of expenditure under this head may be effected during the current year.

Military Quarters.

A charge of 8400*l.* has also been incurred, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, for the purchase of quarters for military officers serving in the colony, for which rent is regularly received on account of the Government.

I believe that I have now offered all the remarks which, upon the present occasion, seem to be required. Respecting commerce, agriculture, manufactures, and the population of the colony, I have nothing to add to the observations made in former years; and my Despatches, forwarding the supply ordinances, at all times convey full information respecting the public works of the colony.

HONG KONG.

(No. 37.)

No. 38.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. F. DAVIS, Bart. to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Victoria, Hong-Kong,
April 11, 1846.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of Hong-Kong for the year 1845, as drawn up by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue.

Under the head of Revenue it is satisfactory to observe an increase from 9534*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* (the collection for the previous year) to 22,242*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, the income of the past. In my separate reports on the revenue of this colony I have detailed the chief causes of increase, and at Page 22 of the "Blue Book" is a comparative view of each item for the two years.

The receipt from Government lands, which may now be estimated to afford an income of about 13,000*l.*, cannot be expected rapidly to increase, as most of the available spots at present in demand have been disposed of. With the progress of the colony a further demand may probably arise, calling for building sites in the neighbourhood of the town; but the rates at which allotments were at first sold must not be expected for the future.

The police assessment, which is estimated to yield about 2000*l.* per annum, must be expected to become more productive with the increase of tenements.

Next to the Crown leases, the licenses and excise farms (as that for opium) are the most productive sources of revenue, and like those at Singapore should increase with the progress of the place.

It will be an early object with me to carry out the proposed ordinance for a duty on wines, spirits, and fermented liquors; but the chief difficulty attending the execution of this project is the total absence of a custom-house establishment in the free port of Hong-Kong; and it therefore may be apprehended that the machinery expressly necessary for the collection of the tax will tend to render its net produce comparatively small.

Upon the whole there is fair reason to anticipate that the fixed revenue may be raised to about 30,000*l.* per annum, and that when the expenses incidental to the first formation of the colony have been defrayed, the annual receipts will be found nearly equal to the annual civil disbursements.

Expenditure.

The comparative expenditure for 1845 exhibits an apparent increase beyond 1844, which is mainly owing to the colonial establishment having regularly commenced only with the month of May, 1844, thus rendering 1845 the first integral year for which a return has been made. The heaviest items of expense are the police establishments and the judicial department, together amounting to nearly one-half of the entire civil charges of the colony.

I have already in my Despatch, No. 35, of the 13th instant, suggested a reduction in the surveyor-general's department, and, as opportunities occur, other retrenchments may hereafter be effected.

In the same Despatch I have reported, that while the sum voted in Parliament for the public service in China (including the consular establishments) for the year 1845-6 was 80,000*l.*, the actual charge has been 64,543*l.*, after deducting the revenue raised in this colony.

Public works.

The civil expenditure, on account of public works during 1845, has been 26,800*l.*, while that under the ordnance department appears as 57,807*l.* Both of these are of course only temporary charges, incidental to a newly established colony.

The progress of buildings and improvements, public and private, during the last eighteen months, has been truly surprising, and could not have taken place except for the ready command of the cheap and efficient labour of the Chinese. The execution of the buildings is such as can be rarely met with in any colony. A good road now extends within five miles of the circumference of the island, 18 miles being completed out of 23, and another road crosses the island from Victoria to Stanley. The excellent contour survey of Hong-Kong made by the engineer department leaves nothing to be desired on that point.

The drainage of the town, so important on every account, may be considered as nearly completed.

HONG-KONG.

With the prospect of having the principal civil buildings executed by the Ordnance Department, I have confined those erected by the Land Office to three police stations, and the building now occupied by the Post-office Department, the latter yielding a rent of 150*l.* a-year to the colony.

Legislation.

Under the head of Legislation, fourteen ordinances were passed during the year 1845, some of them amending previous enactments. The first and immediate wants of the colony may now be considered as supplied, and future ordinances will be required only as occasion shall arise.

Population.

The population return in the "Blue Book" is entirely exclusive of troops. It exhibits a total population of 23,748 persons. Of these, the whites are 634, of whom 501 are males, and 133 females. The coloured population, consisting almost entirely of the registered Chinese, amounts to 23,114, being 18,438 males, and 4676 females. The proportion of the latter has increased as the feeling of security induced the Chinese settlers to bring over their families; and I hope to observe the growth of this favourable indication.

There seems to prevail among the Chinese population a perfect confidence in our Government; and since the establishment of an efficient police, and the severe examples which have been made of some atrocious criminals, security of person and property have been established, in lieu of the robbery and plunder which existed less than two years ago.

Climate.

The most gratifying subject of the present Report is the successful vindication of this colony from those charges of unhealthiness which accidental circumstances (some of them inseparably connected with its first occupation) swelled into a species of panic about the time I quitted England, and led many persons to imagine that a residence in the place was a desperate undertaking. The best answer to the whole is the remarkable immunity from disease which followed immediately upon the completion of fitting dwellings, efficient drainage, and other improvements. The delightful winter which prevails here will, I have no doubt, make Hong-Kong a place of resort to invalids from India.

The colonial surgeon's very complete report, in pages 127 to 138 of the Blue Book, will be found amply to corroborate the above statement, and to prove that this colony is much more healthy than many others of Her Majesty's intertropical possessions. Even in the case of the troops (by no means an infallible test of climate), the mortality was reduced to nearly a half during the last year, before their present excellent barracks were completed; and, now that the soldiers have been housed in them, I entertain no doubt of the marked and favourable result.

Places of worship.

Soon after my arrival in the colony in 1844, I represented, that while the Romanists and Dissenters were already provided with respectable places of worship, the members of the Established Church met in a species of shed. But, however anxious to commence the erection of a more suitable edifice, I have not yet been fortunate enough to obtain that authority for the expenditure, without which, I was officially informed, it must not be undertaken. On the arrival of the necessary sanction, I hope that a proper building may be raised in the course of a year; and there seems little doubt of obtaining one-third of the cost from among the inhabitants.

Education.

There are four European establishments for education in Victoria, into some of which the use of the Chinese language is introduced. They are at present entirely supported by voluntary contributions. In Despatch, No. 4, of January 20th, I proposed to Her Majesty's Government some small annual contribution to a school established by the Reverend Mr. Stanton, for the education of the children of European police, and others. Mr. Stanton is now erecting a school, by the aid of funds supplied in England, for bringing up young Chinese in the principles of Christianity.

As among the Chinese population generally, a number of individuals of that nation are employed in Hong-Kong in giving the first elements of instruction to the male children of the inhabitants, for the females are always kept at home. In the Despatch already quoted above, I have suggested that some trifling Government contribution might have a favourable influence on the feeling of the population.

Trade.

Under the head of general trade, I may state, that two foreign consuls, American and Danish, have hoisted their flags at Hong-Kong; the first having already obtained his "exequatur" from Her Majesty. It seems to me, in every respect, desirable to encourage the resort of all kinds of trade to this port; and I

shall have great satisfaction in reporting that the consuls of other foreign states have applied for leave to act.

In spite of the discouragement afforded by the Supplementary Treaty, the Chinese trade appears to be rather on the increase; and I have the honour to append to this Report a paper by Mr. Gutzlaff on that interesting subject. No. 2.

The total absence of a custom-house, affording the regular and exact returns connected with such an establishment, while it encourages trade by holding out the advantages of a free port, at the same time renders it impossible to give a very accurate statement of the commerce carried on.

A surprising increase, as well as improvement, has taken place during the last year in the Chinese shops. The Colonial Almanac, of which I have directed two copies to be forwarded, contains a list of 388 retail dealers, in addition to the three government markets.

A principal obstacle to the Chinese commerce of the place, is the system of piracy which infests the approaches from the east and west; but measures which are now in progress for checking this (and which shall be reported hereafter), will, I trust, have a tendency to remedy the evil. Any local measures would be useless, previous to the receipt of the Vice-Admiralty commission, which is daily expected by the mail-steamer.

My previous Despatches will have shown, that the small quantity of level land available in the colony for agriculture, must always restrict this branch of productive industry within narrow bounds; but the few valleys which are to be found, will probably be devoted to the growth of market vegetables, rather than rice, which can always be imported by shipping. A better prospect exists for pasture, and endeavours are making to secure an internal supply of bullocks for the use of the Commissariat.

Crown lands.

I regret to state (as before observed), that I perceive no immediate prospect of a considerable increase to the present income derived by Government from leases of Crown lands. The additional leases sold, during 1845, amount only to about 900*l.* per annum, and raise the whole to something more than 13,000*l.* The available ground about the town of Victoria has been mostly sold; but the future growth of the colony may create a demand for parcels of ground in the neighbourhood.

Police.

While it is satisfactory to report that an effectual check has been put to the vast amount of crime prevalent on my first arrival in the colony, the very heavy expense of the police must remain a subject of regret, as long as the peculiar position of this island, within reach of the worst characters from the mainland of China, exposes it to the ingress of a depraved population. Nothing but constant vigilance, and the occasional exhibition of severe examples, will continue to life and property that security which they fortunately enjoy at present. The annual amount of the police-tax, which at present does not produce above 2000*l.* per annum, will, no doubt, increase with the growth of rateable property.

A profitable use of convict labour has been made during the last year in the construction and repair of roads; and I trust that the maintenance of the prisoners will be compensated in this manner. Within the town of Victoria, and its immediate neighbourhood, their services are very available; but much time is lost, and risk of escape incurred, in their employment at considerable distances from the prison.

The extremely defective state of the colonial gaol, which was erected only for temporary use, has been attended with much practical inconvenience; but, with the arrival from England of an authority to construct more suitable prisons, the works have been commenced, and I trust their completion is not very far distant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. F. DAVIS.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

HONG-KONG.

Enclosure in No. 38.

Encl. in No. 38.

REMARKS upon the present state of NATIVE TRADE with the Colony of HONG-KONG.

THE obstacles which our commercial intercourse with China has to encounter ought to be pointed out, to effect in some measure the removal.

1. From 1839 until now, there has been piracy along the whole coast; and, though the outlaws remained at times quiet, they very soon appeared again, to strike terror in the peaceful merchant junks. This evil does not merely exist in the neighbourhood of Canton, but extends as far as Teintsin, and is most fearful on the coast of Fokien.

The principal entrances to Hong-Kong are through narrow passages, where the ruffians can lie in wait, and pounce upon their victims with great rapidity. They have at Victoria their spies, who give them correct information about every vessel that has a valuable cargo on board, and the moment she leaves, these boats prowl about to lay hold of her, and plunder her entirely. The pirates themselves come most from the neighbourhood of Whampoa; some cruise about in fishing-smacks of a peculiar build, so as to outsail other craft; but most of them are long rowing crafts, and several carry a letter of marque. It is very difficult to distinguish them from ordinary vessels; and when pursued, they adopt many stratagems to prevent their discovery, and generally know well to manage so as to elude the arm of justice.

The traders that come from the adjacent islands—from Canton, Tungkwan, &c.—have compounded with the buccaneers, paying them a certain sum as black mail, for which they obtain liberty to navigate the seas without molestation; but the eastern passage, towards Ly-yu-moon, is at present very much infested by these depredators. They are there also more numerous than amongst the islands, and do very much mischief. The trading junks dare not leave this harbour, unless they have a strong breeze, and can depart in a large squadron. Many, therefore, are here detained a considerable time, and are ultimately, after all precautions, nevertheless plundered. Such occurrences have, during the present month, been very numerous; whilst in some of the previous ones no similar losses took place.

We need not observe that our trade, on account of this insecurity, is much curtailed. The vessels that used to come from Kityëo and Haeyëo, and took full cargoes in this harbour, often amounting to 30-40,000 dollars in value, have suffered so repeatedly as almost to drive them away entirely; and where there were formerly three or five, we have now only one.

This evil is very inveterate, and it is difficult to suggest an effective remedy which would put a stop to it, and the more so as the Chinese government will not avail itself of our co-operation. Could one believe the sufferers when they pointed out their assailants, or discover, with sufficient proofs for conviction, their haunts, the matter would be very easy; long before, however, any force can arrive, they are gone, and there are so many harbours and hiding-places for these robbers, that it would require much local knowledge and good information to apprehend them. But as the Chinese government, on account of possessing better means for obtaining knowledge of the perpetrators, is perfectly competent to bring them to condign punishment, the constant recurrence of piracy, if duly reported to the supreme government, and the most urgent and often-reiterated requests, to put these nefarious wretches down with a high hand, might rouse it from its slumbers and indifference. Some vessels of ours, fitted out in the Chinese way, might cruise about at the Kapsing and Ly-yu-moon with great advantage.

2. The supplementary treaty, which stipulated that junks should only clear out from the harbours open to our trade, has fortunately not been carried into force. However, the very fact that four emporia, besides Canton, are accessible to our traders, with the many intermediate stations on the coast, makes it extremely easy for junks to go to the nearest spot, and buy there nearly as cheap as the article can be sold at Canton, without risk of shipwreck or pirates, and with a speedy return of their capital. To attract, therefore, the junk trade to Hong-Kong is beyond the range of possibility, and neither regulations nor orders could effect this; so long as the other ports are open, and the British merchant can ship whatever he pleases, and go to the market which will answer his expectations best. The trade reasonably to be expected is a transit one, by vessels that wish to go to any of the northern and southern ports, and touch here on their way.

3. A more formidable obstacle is, that Chinese imports, in considerable quantity, are seldom saleable at Hong Kong. Teas were at first brought here in lots of 100 to 600 chests by sea-going junks.

But there is not a single instance on record that it could be disposed of to any advantage; on the contrary, it has entailed, in all cases, a heavy loss, and it has been given over to the shopkeepers, to get rid of it as they best could. The last adventure of this description was a cargo from the Bohea Hills, in a British vessel, which arrived from Amoy. This speculation ended still more tragically. Not only had the article to be sold by auction at a very reduced rate, under prime cost, but the parties got themselves into a lawsuit, and were involved in irretrievable difficulties, so that the whole ended in ruin. The reason given for the unfortunate issue of similar enterprises is, that the teas are not suited to our markets, and that our own merchants, having given their order to the various agents in the ports, care not for making additional and trifling purchases. Another article brought by junks is alum, which is occasionally saleable; but the greater part cannot be disposed of at Hong-Kong, and goes either to Canton or even to Macao.

Camphor fetches sometimes a fair price, but many vessels that bring their cargoes here find no purchasers.

These are the staple goods, for the disposal of which no encouragement has yet been given, and the commerce on that account is very languid.

Attempts have been made to introduce sulphur, rhubarb, coarse china, earthenware, and other items; but the demand was not of such nature as to make the speculators desirous to revisit our ports. Where imports, however, find no customer, exports cannot be expected to be much coveted as long as bullion alone will purchase them.

4. The whole Chinese marine commerce appears to approach a great crisis. The keenest Chinese merchants are convinced that our ships can carry goods cheaper and safer than their junks, and that merchandize of any value is better put on board of them. This will throw the carrying trade of the dearest articles into our hands, and most goods will be brought up from the Indian Archipelago in British bottoms on Chinese account, and proceed directly to the ports of their destination without touching here or elsewhere. We might have had otherwise a considerable emporium here for the Straits produce, but this change has prevented it. A few junks that touched at Victoria to buy these articles were obliged to proceed to other ports to get a cargo, whilst others that wished to collect the exports for the Archipelago, could not find a sufficient quantity on the spot, and had to send to Canton to purchase them.

4. As a great drawback upon our commercial prosperity, we may mention the absence of respectable Chinese firms, and especially of Chin Cheu merchants. Up to the present moment no man possessing a considerable property has ventured to engage in the Hong-Kong trade, or to establish a house on the island. To the repeated questions put to men of substance why they did not carry on their business under a free government, with full protection of their property, the answer has always been, that it was more advantageous at Canton, or other large cities, and would not answer at Hong-Kong. We must, certainly, make some allowance for the colony being still in a state of infancy, but yet the living in the same settlement with the large English houses, and the having nothing to fear from the rapacity of the mandarins, ought to be a great inducement for large Chinese merchants to come and reside at Victoria. After all the endeavours to fix a colony of Chin Cheu merchants in our possessions, men who are the soul of the whole commerce in the Indian Archipelago, matters remain as they were before. The privileges assigned to them by the government, and the facilities afforded, have not made them willing to repair to this place; and yet in our Straits colonies they come of their own accord, and are only too happy to amass wealth under the British flag which does not allow extortions. Even at Macao, there have been for many years back three very respectable houses, the managing members of which came over to Hong Kong to ascertain whether they could not here do some business and establish a branch or remove entirely. But, after long investigation, they gave up the idea. There appears to exist a fear of laying out money without a moral certainty of the returns, and as the trade has first to be created, there is no prospect yet of securing a large profit.

With all its disadvantages, Hong-Kong possesses likewise great facilities. Though situated in a corner of the empire, many junks, on their passage to the various southern ports, pass here. Auctions being of frequent occurrence, many articles are sold at a far reduced rate from what they would fetch in other places; and there are a number of small dealers who constantly speculate in such transactions, and sell a great deal to these vessels. Thus there has existed for a long while a small trade as far as single sales are concerned, but a large one when the whole is summed up, without even the knowledge of our own merchants, and beneath the notice of our great houses. This is still carried on with great spirit, and should the per centage on auctions be taken off would likely grow more brisk. Long before a junk from Canton, on her way up to the northern ports arrives here, orders are given to brokers to attend the sales and provide the cargo, and there is always a probability that the purchases will be cheaper than at Canton. The boats which come from the neighbouring cities do likewise much business in this way, and frequently invest the returns of the goods sold at this place in manufactures thus obtained.

The salt trade is the most flourishing of all the branches, and entirely in the hands of the natives.

The people that bring it hither come from Taechoo, Haehong, and Tamshuy, in the neighbourhood of which places their are extensive flats, often overflowed by the sea, and useless for all other purposes, except to collect in pans the salt, by the evaporation of the brine, which has been left. As it is, when boiled, much cheaper than the salt produced in the interior, and, moreover, not subject to the gabelle, it finds at Hong-Kong a ready sale, for salting fish and for taking it illegally up to Canton.

Next to it the stone trade is deserving our attention. The only produce of Hong-Kong, for exportation, is granite, and, though a very contemptible article, still it employs many hands, a great number of boats, each about 70 to 100 tons, and some capital. There are seldom less than a hundred of the above craft which monthly leave this with a full cargo for the interior; and it is considered a profitable trade, because stone blocks are constantly in demand, and will always fetch a good price in proportion as buildings are in course of erection.

The fisheries carried on from Aberdeen and Stanley are in a flourishing condition, and consequently, also, the trade in salt fish, which the mass of the people use generally for seasoning their rice. How many smacks belong to these places has never been ascertained; but at New Year, when they make up the accounts with their partners and owners, the harbours are full of them. It would be well to inquire into the tonnage, and issue regular passes to these boats.

For some months past small vessels have been clearing out for Haenam, Teen-pak, and the west coast of Kwang Tung province in general. They take a good quantity of raw cotton, and, likewise, opium, and carry on a thriving commerce.

The junks that pass the harbour come principally from Teocheo and Haehong districts in Kwang Tung, and from Chio-po and Chaongan in Fokien.

HONG KONG.

The large vessels which arrived in summer from Canton to go to Teintsin, and brought the large quantity of piece-goods formerly reported, were originally Fokien craft, and chartered by Shantung and other merchants. At present, the prices of our cotton manufactures at Shanghae do not much differ in price from those of Hong-Kong, and, on account of the large importation, the speculation will not probably be repeated.

The cargoes were intended for Northern China and Mongolia, to make covers for the sheepskins and cotton-wadded jackets of the peasantry, the exclusive dress of the peasantry and poorer classes in winter, as the cheapest stuff procurable.

We have also had a few junks from Ningpo and Fuh-choo, on their way to Canton, and *vice versâ;* some direct from Formosa, though belonging to Fokien; and very few from Amoy and Hwuy-an.

Many have poor cargoes, and do not buy much; but there is always some trade, though always exclusively confined to Chinese living here.

So long as no custom-house exists, it is impossible to obtain accurate returns. The above was collected from the natives on board their own vessels; and the writer has frequently, with his own eyes, seen the export and import cargoes.

He is anxious to investigate the subject in all its bearings; and if there happens any favourable change, he will not fail to report the same, after having duly investigated the matter in all its bearings.

(Signed) CHARLES GUTZLAFF,
Chinese Secretary.

Victoria, 6th January, 1846.

(True Copy) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

HELIGOLAND.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 39.

(No. 1.) No. 39.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor J. HINDMARSH to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR, Heligoland, February 26, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1845, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, (Signed) J. HINDMARSH.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 39.

Enclosure in No. 39.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S REPORT accompanying the BLUE BOOK, for 1845.

Heligoland, February 26, 1846.

THE Island of Heligoland being scarcely more than a rock, of about a third of a square mile in extent, and its inhabitants chiefly fishermen, their circumstances, both political and social, are less liable to alter probably than those of any other commnnity on the face of the globe. The fact also of their laws and customs having been guaranteed to them at the capture of the island from Denmark, in 1807, and the absence of any legislative authority to effect any change beneficial or otherwise in their institutions, has the natural tendency of preserving things in a uniform state from year to year. Hence the political prospects of Heligoland are the same that they were five years, if not twenty years, ago; and its social condition, likewise, preserves the same unvarying features.

There is, however, a visible improvement in the pecuniary circumstances of the inhabitants within the last few years, owing to the growing reputation of the island as a watering place, and the consequent influx of visitors from all parts of Germany during three or four of the summer months. The inhabitants have been encouraged to build lodging-houses and hotels for their accommodation; and, besides the large profits they derive from letting apartments and keeping "Tables d'Hôtes," the great majority of the inhabitants find advantageous employment during the bathing season in administering to the wants or pleasures of the visitors.

The more indigent inhabitants also have received frequent marks of charity from the hands of these strangers.

The recent removal of the "Stade Duties" has been a great boon to the mass of the people; a tax, roughly estimated at 10,000 marks per annum, having been thereby saved to them.

On the other hand, the severe winter of 1844—45 (the island having been for many weeks surrounded with ice) was the occasion of great distress, and pecuniary assistance was gladly accepted by many that had seldom or never before required the aid of charity.

The interruption to the navigation created a loss of pilotage to men of that calling. But the amount was probably insignificant, as the high prices injudiciously charged by the Heligoland pilots for their services have had the obvious effect of deterring masters of vessels from engaging their services, whenever they can with presumed safety be dispensed with.

As to the pilot regulations, the Lieut.-Governor would observe that he was enabled, through his professional experience, to digest a scheme of pilotage, which many considered would have proved highly lucrative to the pilots, and beneficial to the Merchant Service: but he found the majority so much prejudiced in favour of their old *régime*, and so blind to the fact that the constantly diminishing calls for their services was the natural result of their own high charges, of the improvements in charts, and of the extensive increase in steamers, that they could not be persuaded to adopt a lower or indeed any scale of charges to tempt mariners, nor sanction any plan which had not been handed down to them from their fathers.

By the liberal assistance of Her Majesty's Government, the large building, containing the public schools and two clergymen's houses, has been put into a good state of repair during the past and previous year, to the great comfort of all connected with the establishment.

The Lieut.-Governor is of opinion, that the more extensive intercourse of the Heligolanders with educated strangers, and the reformations agitated in many parts on the Continent, and the influx of doubtful political characters who annually resort hither, have induced a growing dissatisfaction with their present constitution.

The Lieut.-Governor has, however, already taken occasion to intimate, that some modification might be introduced with advantage, although he by no means recommends any change until the general voice of the inhabitants demands it.

(Signed) J. HINDMARSH,
Lieut.-Governor.

LONDON:
Printed by William Clowes and Sons, Stamford-street,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1846 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies: in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S

COLONIAL POSSESSIONS,

AND OF

THE UNITED STATES OF THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1846.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

JULY, 1847.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1847.

SCHEDULE.

NORTH AMERICA.

PLACE.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Pag
		1847		
NOVA SCOTIA	1. Sir J. Harvey	Aug. 3	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846	1
NEW BRUNSWICK	2. Sir W. Colebrooke	June 10	Observations on the Blue Book for 1846	1
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	3. Sir H. V. Huntley	May 27	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, together with Explanatory Statement thereon	4
NEWFOUNDLAND	4. Sir J Gaspard Le Marchant	Aug. 24	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846	9
BERMUDA	5. Governor Elliot	March 17	Forwarding Blue Book for 1846	9

No Report received from Canada.

WEST INDIES.

		No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Pag
			1846		
BAHAMAS		6. Governor Mathew	May 27	Transmitting Blue Book for 1845, with Report thereon	10
				Return of Meteoroloical Observations for seven years	14
			1847		
		7. Governor Mathew	March 20	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon	15
GOVERNMENT OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS.	BARBADOS	8. Governor Reid	May 8	Transmitting Statistical Returns of the Windward Islands and Reports from St. Vincent, Grenada, and Tobago.—Number of Newspapers published within the Windward Islands Government.	16
	GRENADA	9. Lieut.-Governor Hamilton	Mar. 18	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon	18
				Summary of Exports—1845, 1846	18
				Number and Tonnage of Vessels which entered Inwards and cleared Outwards, during the year 1846	20
				Number and Tonnage of Registered Shipping belonging to the Port of St. George—1844, 1845, and 1846	20
				Estimated Value of Imports and Exports—1846	20
				Revenue and Expenditure—1844, 1845, and 1846	21
				General Abstract of the Population according to Census of 1844	25
		10. Earl Grey	Aug. 28	Acknowledgment of above	26
	TOBAGO	11. Lieut.-Governor Græme	April 2	Annual Report for 1846	26
				Return of Native Labourers under the age of 18 at Plantation Work; also a Return of the number of Immigrants employed upon each Estate	32
				Return of Children that left the Mount Moriah School between August, 1842, and December, 1846	32
		12. Lieut.-Governor Græme	April 15	Forwarding Annual Report of Inspector of Gaols	35
				Prison Statistics—1842 to 1847	37
		13. Earl Grey	Aug. 20	Acknowledgment of receipt of Blue Book and Report	38
	ST. LUCIA	14. Lieut.-Col. Hay	March 11	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, and Reports of Special Magistrates	38
		15. Earl Grey	Aug. 27	Acknowledgment of above	39

WEST INDIES—*continued.*

	PLACE.	No.	Date. 1847	SUBJECT.	Page
GOVERNMENT OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.	LEEWARD ISLANDS	16. Governor Higginson	April 17	Reporting result of tour of inspection of the several Colonies within the Leeward Island Government	40
		17. Earl Grey	May 30	Acknowledgment of above Despatch	45
	ANTIGUA	18. Governor Higginson	May 25	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with remarks thereon	46
	ST. KITT'S	19. Governor Higginson	April 16	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon by Officer administering the Government.	50
	DOMINICA	20. Governor Higginson	April 23	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, together with Report of Lieut.-Governor thereon	52
	MONTSERRAT	21. Governor Higginson.	June 7	Forwarding Blue Book for 1846, with Report from the President administering the Government	54
	VIRGIN ISLES.	22. Governor Higginson.	July 10	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon by the President administering the Government	55
	NEVIS	23. Governor Higginson	May 27	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon by the President administering the Government	57
	BRITISH GUIANA	24. Governor Light	March 25	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, accompanied with a Supplement of statistical information and remarks	59
		Enclosure No. 1.		Revenue and Expenditure, 1831 to 1846	72
		Enclosure No. 2.		Customs Produce exported, 1838 to 1846	75
		Enclosure No. 3.		Criminal and Civil Cases, Demerara and Essequibo, 1838 to 1846	76
				Berbice	76
				Supreme.Civil and Inferior Courts, Civil Justice	76
		Enclosure No. 4.		Inferior Criminal Courts	79
		Enclosure No. 5.		Gaols, &c.	80
		Enclosure No. 6.		Police Magistrate, George Town	83
		Enclosure No. 7.		George Town and New Amsterdam, Municipal Expenses, &c.	84
		Enclosure No. 8.		Hospital Statistics and Mortality	85
		Enclosure No. 9.		Police—British Guiana	89
		Enclosure No. 10.		Education	89
		Enclosure No. 11.		Expenses for Poor	90
		Enclosure No. 12.		Penal Settlement, 1842 to 1846	90
				Harbour-Master's Report, Demerara and Berbice, 1838 to 1846	92
		Enclosure No. 13.		Number of Vessels and Tonnage, inwards and outwards	92
		Enclosure No. 14.		Emigration, 1835 to 1846	93
		Enclosure No. 15.		List of Estates	94
				Administrator-General, Reports of	99
	HONDURAS	25. Sir C. Grey	Sept. 7	Transmitting General Report on the State of the Settlement by Col. Fancourt	102
				Return of Revenue and Expenditure, 1834 to 1846	103
				Return of Revenue, 1844, 1845, and 1846	105
				Table of Diseases treated in Public Hospital of Berbice, 1844, 1845, and 1846	114
		26. Earl Grey	Nov. 2	Acknowledgment of above Despatch	117
	TRINIDAD	27. Lord Harris.	April 5	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with remarks on the subjects most materially affecting the interests of the Colony	117
		28. Earl Grey	May 21	Acknowledgment of above Despatch	120

No Reports received from Jamaica and St. Vincent.

THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA.

PLACE.	No.		Date. 1847	SUBJECT.	Page
GIBRALTAR	29.	General Sir R. Wilson	March 16	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846	120
MALTA	30.	Governor Sir P. Stuart	March 31	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, and reporting on the several subjects connected with the Returns therein contained	121
IONIAN ISLANDS	31.	Lord Seaton	July 21	Transmitting Report on the Blue Book for 1846	126
SIERRA LEONE	32.	Governor Macdonald	May 13	Report on Blue Book for 1846	131
GOLD COAST	33.	Lieut.-Governor Winniett	Feb. 20	Forwarding Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon	146
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE	34.	Governor Sir H. Pottinger	June 7	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Colonial Secretary's Report thereon	149
				Revenue and Expenditure, 1844, 1845, and 1846	151
				Ecclesiastical Return from the Eastern and Western Provinces for 1846	159
				Return of Crown Lands granted on perpetual Quit-rent and sold on Freehold Tenure, in 1844, 1845, and 1846	164
ST. HELENA	35.	Sir P. Ross	April 22	Forwarding Blue Book for 1846	167

No Report received from the Gambia.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

NEW SOUTH WALES	36.	Sir C. A. Fitzroy	May 27	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon	169
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND	37.	Lieut.-Governor Denison	May 19	Forwarding Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon	174
	38.	Earl Grey	Dec. 12	Acknowledgment of above Despatch	177
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	39.	Lieut.-Governor Robe	May 17	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, and Remarks thereon	178
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	40.	Acting Governor Irwin	June 30	Transmitting Blue Book for 1846, with Report thereon	183

No Report received from New Zealand.

EASTERN COLONIES.

MAURITIUS	41.	Sir W. M. Gomm	March 6	General Report on the State of the Colony	190
CEYLON	42.	Sir J. Emerson Tennent	May 10	General Report on the State of the Colony	199
				Return of Imports and Exports, 1842 to 1846	212
				Amount of Cash in the several Treasuries of the Island, Jan. 1, 1846	227
				Gross Receipts and Expenditure of the Year 1846	229
HONG KONG	43.	Sir J. F. Davis	March 13	Forwarding Blue Book for 1846—Progress of the Colony	231
				Return of the Number of Vessels of all Nations which cleared at the Custom-house of Canton during the year 1846	229
FALKLAND ISLANDS	44.	Governor Moody	March 9	Forwarding Blue Book for 1847, with General Observations thereon	237

REPORTS

EXHIBITING

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

(No. 33.) No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir John HARVEY, K.C.B., to Earl GREY.

Government House, Halifax,
MY LORD, August 3, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1846, which it has not been practicable to complete sooner. And as two-thirds of that year had elapsed before I assumed the Government, I trust that your Lordship will be pleased to dispense with the General Report on the state of the province, which should otherwise accompany that document, until the returns for the year 1847 can be transmitted, when I shall have acquired sufficient experience to enable me to comply more satisfactorily than I could at present with your Lordship's instructions in that respect.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, J. HARVEY.
&c., &c.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

(No. 50.) No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Earl GREY.

Fredericton, New Brunswick,
MY LORD, June 10, 1847.

IN transmitting the duplicate "Blue Book" for 1846, I have the honour to submit such observations as are called for in reference to its details.

No material alteration having taken place in the revenue system of the province, the schedule of taxes, duties, &c., does not call for any particular remarks; but in the present year, Acts having been passed to repeal in 1848, the differential duties under authority of an Act of Parliament, and also to relieve the intercolonial trade from the restrictions to which it has been subject; an opening has thus been presented for placing the trade of the colonies in their relations with the United Kingdom, and with each other, on a more satisfactory footing, and if Her Majesty's Government should be prepared to support those views which are detailed in my Despatch, No. 35, of the 27th April, transmitting the Acts in question, I anticipate that the illicit traffic which now obtains may be arrested, and that encouragement may be given to the settlement of the province, to which the present system is much opposed.

In the Abstract of the Revenue and Expenditure, it will be seen to what extent objects of a local nature have been provided for from the duties imposed on commerce, and by encouraging the settlers to depend on this precarious resource, rather than on their own industry and the credit of their local communities, the progress of improvement has been retarded to their own prejudice, as well as of the trading interests of the country.

Exclusive of the duties specially raised for the liquidation of the provincial debt, the lighthouses, Marine Hospital, &c., 95,847*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* were raised in

NEW BRUNSWICK.

1846, of which 68,607*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* were derived from duties of import, and 27,237*l.* 13*s.* from export on timber and from the land sales, and deducting from this revenue 3,096*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* for the charges of collection, one-third of the amount, or 31,832*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* were appropriated for roads and Public Works, and 13,092*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* for colleges and schools, while the charge for the Civil and Judicial establishments was 16,205*l.* 16*s.*; for the expenses of the two Houses of Legislature, 7819*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*; and for miscellaneous expenses, including certain bounties and premiums, 16,657*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

One objection to this system in a colony is, that with the growing prosperity of its trade, there is a proportional augmentation of its commercial revenue, and the influence of the rural districts in the Legislature, is opposed to such a reduction of the duties, as would limit the revenue to the demands of the public service, while the surplus can be applied to local objects, by which they may be relieved from assessments. By the change proposed in the financial system of the province, a considerable reduction will also admit of being made in the establishments maintained for the collection and protection of the revenue.

Of the Civil List Fund (page 46), it will be observed, that there was surplus in 1846, of 9678*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for provincial purposes, and of the disputed Territory Fund (page 42), a sum of 7588*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, raised on timber cut without license in the territory in dispute between this province and Canada, and which by a recent decision of the Supreme Court is recognized as within the jurisdiction of New Brunswick.

Public Works, page 57.—No alteration has taken place in the mode in which Public Works have heretofore been carried on, but the disposition of the Legislature to encourage private enterprise in the construction of railways, and to co-operate with Her Majesty's Government in extensive undertakings of this nature, will lead to such a change, and promote more effectually the settlement of the Forest Lands; an object, which from the great extent and resources of the unreclaimed territory, the value of its timber, the fertility of the soil, and its mineral productions, will be found to reward the industry applied to it. The population of the province in the present year, estimated at the average rate of increase of 5 per cent. on the returns of 1840, may be stated at 211,473. The extent of land granted (page 276), 6,636,329 acres; and ungranted 12,271,031 acres.

From the returns of imports and exports (page 245), it will be seen to what extent as an agricultural country the province is dependant upon imported supplies of bread, corn, and other articles of subsistence which might be abundantly raised from its soil. In this respect it is contrasted with Canada, and so great a drain on its resources, could not be sustained, but from the extent of the timber trade by which much of the strength of the agricultural population is withdrawn from the cultivation of the land. The total amount of imports in 1846 was 1,036,016*l.*; and of exports, 886,763*l.*; and there can be little doubt that without diminishing the resources of the timber trade, not only would it be practicable to render the province independent of supplies of grain, meats, fish, &c., but to add to its resources by a large export of these commodities. The prices of them in the present year have been considerably raised above the rates stated at page 268, owing to the dependence on the foreign market for supplies, and they are at present on a level with the prices in the United Kingdom, occasioning much distress to the labouring classes.

Circumstances have occurred to draw attention to the importances of accelerating the occupation of the vast and fertile territory at the disposal of the Crown in this province; and it is earnestly to be desired that a comprehensive plan of systematic colonization should be devised and encouraged, which, by holding out the possession of land as the primary inducement to an efficient class of settlers who would be qualified to form a prosperous yeomanry, would enable them to rely on co-operation and support from a proprietary class, who, possessing adequate resources, would identify their interests with their own, and preserve the communities thus formed from the sacrifice of those advantages which they so much appreciate, arising from the constitution of society at home. To effect this desirable object it is necessary that the lead should be taken by proprietors in the United Kingdom, who are interested in the welfare of their tenantry, and who in undertaking the formation of settlements in the colonies, should be prepared to take an active and prominent part, by the execution of such works as would identify them with the fortunes of those of their retainers who might be led to settle with them abroad. I am

aware of the difficulties which have arisen from the neglect of these views in the pressure of population, and the indigence of vast numbers who, if a sound system of colonization had prevailed, would not at this day have been thus impoverished, alienated, and degraded; but if the system which has led to these results cannot longer be pursued without an aggravation of the evils which have already proved so formidable; and as the emigration of the destitute has not prevented an augmentation of their numbers at home in a greater ratio, it is time to consider whether a more effectual remedy will not be found in holding out public encouragement to the formation of prosperous settlements in these fertile regions by those who are the most competent to carry out the arts and improvements of their own country, and to apply the more ample resources of the United Kingdom to the support of the more indigent and inefficient, until by sufficient training they may eventually be enabled to emigrate with advantage to themselves and to the colonies. The example that might thus be set by the landholders of the United Kingdom would lead, I should hope, to the establishment of a proprietary class in the country, whose effective and intelligent co-operation would supersede the necessity of that detailed interference of the Government, in operations for the conduct of which it is less competent. To encourage the formation of prosperous settlements, either by association or through the undertaking of gentlemen of property, it would be sufficient to make some provision for the maintenance of churches and schools till the reclaimed lands should afford the means of providing for them.

The necessary provision to be made for the acoommodation of the settlers and for opening communications, must necessarily absorb for a time their available resources, even after the produce of the reclaimed lands may become adequate for their subsistence, but they will sooner be independent of extraneous assistance, when associated in communities, than under the system of scattered and desultory settlements, which have been made by indigent persons who have taken up lands often remote from settlements already formed, and regardless of the consequences to themselves and their families, from the absence of all civilizing influences.

No alteration has taken place in the state of education within the last year, but in the present year an Act has been passed for the improvement of the parish schools, in which it is provided that the Lieutenant-Governor and Council are to constitute a Board of Education, and that a normal school should be established for the training of teachers. The provision made by the Legislature for parochial schools, if applied in aid of a local rate, would be adequate to effect a great improvement in the system, and it would possess the advantage, that while the people would not be required to pay more than they do at present for the education of their children, the obligation of all who possessed property to contribute, would tend largely to augment the funds, while it would induce those who have children to keep them at school, who now are often led prematurely to withdraw them, and thus to save the contribution which they are required to make. A sense of the advantage that would result from this important change will, I hope, induce the Legislature to provide that the public contribution should be given in aid of a local assessment for the parish schools. From the Education Returns (at page 225), it will be seen that in King's College there are eight resident and eight non-resident students. In ten grammar schools 345 scholars, and in 567 parish schools, there are 16,066 children of both sexes under instruction, or about 8 per cent. of the estimated population of the province, if the numbers in the private schools be added, which are not included in the Returns.

Some notice is required of the banking and monetary system of the province (see page 237.) I have on other occasions noticed the inconvenience arising from the maintenance of a nominal currency, which once prevailed in all the British colonies on this continent, but was early reformed in the United States after the Revolution. The adoption of British sterling would be advisable; and if by the circulation of coins of standard value, which would have the advantage of a decimal division of the pound sterling, the convenience of such a currency would be appreciated in the colonies. The circulation of coin in the province is very limited, and that of paper by the provincial banks has averaged but 250,000*l.*; and as no advances are made by the banks to farmers, the circulation in the rural districts is very limited, and the operations of the country are, in a great degree, dependent on barter, a circumstance to

NEW BRUNSWICK.

which it is necessary to advert in any arrangements for the settlement of the country.

Of the general commerce of the province, the number of ships that cleared outwards from the several ports in the last year was 3630, containing 549,083 tons, and navigated by 24,096 seamen; and the number entered inwards was 3586, of 588,135 tons, navigated by 25,428 seamen, exhibiting a considerable increase in the trade of the preceding year; and it does not appear that it has since sustained any diminution.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 3.

(No. 90.) No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir H. V. Huntley to Earl Grey.

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
May 27, 1847.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1846, together with an explanatory statement as required by Earl Ripon's Circular Despatch of the 10th January, 1830.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) H. V. HUNTLEY, Lieutenant-Governor.

Explanatory Statement to accompany the Blue Book for Prince Edward Island.

Civil Establishment.

The Civil Establishment of the Island consists of the Lieutenant Governor, Chief-Justice, Attorney-General, Secretary, Registrar and Clerk of the Council, Surveyor-General, Provost Marshal, and Clerk of the Crown, whose salaries are voted by the Imperial Government.

By a Colonial enactment of the 16th Geo. III., cap. 1, the above officers are entitled to receive certain fees for particular services, a detailed account of which will be found on reference to page 64. The fees attached to the office of Secretary, Registrar, and Clerk of the Council, are paid into the Colonial Treasury, under the Act of 3rd Vict., cap. 27, a commuted allowance being received by that officer in lieu of such fees.

There are also a Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, a Landing Waiter, and a Clerk to the Collector at the Port of Charlotte Town, whose salaries are paid out of the duties collected under Acts of the Imperial Parliament, see pages 77, 78, and 79; there are likewise five Sub-Collectors of the Customs at the out-ports of Cascumpee, Richmond Bay, Bedeque, Three Rivers, and Colville Bay respectively, who are appointed by the Commissioners of Customs, but whose salaries are paid by the colony; in addition to the officers already named, there are others on the Civil Establishment of the Colony, who are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and paid for their services out of the Colonial revenue, these are the Treasurer, who receives a salary of 450*l.* per annum; the Collector of Impost at Charlotte Town, who receives a salary of 230*l.* per annum; eleven Collectors of Impost at the different out harbours, who are paid for their services by a per centage on the duties collected by them respectively; a Solicitor-General and a Registrar in Chancery, who receives no salary, being remunerated for their services by certain fees attached to their respective offices.

There is a Sub-Inspector and Adjutant-General of Militia, who receives a salary of 67*l.* 10*s.* per annum; there is a Wharfinger and Harbour Master in Charlotte Town, who receives a salary of 50*l.* per annum; there are also other offices of minor importance, the holders of which are paid out of the resources of the Colony, and whose united salaries for the past year amounted to the sum of 427*l.* 10*s.* as detailed in page 64.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue for the year 1846, amounted to 16,275*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, independently of the Parliamentary Grant of 3,070*l.*, and of the sum of 512*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, parts of grants out of the proceeds of Crown Lands for the erection of a Lunatic Asylum, and House of Industry, for opening New Roads, and for effecting a Geological Survey of the Island, and of the sum of 480*l.* 17*s.* 7¾*d.* surplus arising from the sales of land under the Land Assessment Act.

The Colonial Revenue is principally derived from an impost of 10*d.* currency per gallon on all wines and spirits, and 2*d.* per gallon on ale, porter, and strong beer imported into the Island, under two permanent Legislative enactments of 25 Geo. III., cap. 4, and 35 Geo. III., cap. 10; the amount received under these Acts is 1,189*l.* 8*s.* 0½*d.*, and is placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, for making and repairing Public Roads, &c. An additional impost of 1*s.* 2*d.* currency per gallon on wines and spirits; 2*d.* per lb. on unmanufactured, and 4*d.* per lb. on manufactured tobacco; 4*d.* per lb. on tea; 5*s.* per barrel on flour; 4*s.* per barrel on corn and oatmeal; 4*s.* per cwt. on meat salted or cured; 5*s.* per cwt. on lard, butter, cheese, bread, and refined sugar; 2*s.* per cwt. on coffee; 2*d.* per lb. on upper, 1*d.* per lb. on harness, and ½*d.* per lb. on sole leather; 2*s.* 6*d.* per thousand on boards; 20*s.* each on horses; 15*s.* each on neat cattle, except cows; and an *ad valorum* duty, varying from 2½ to 25 per cent. on certain goods, wares, and merchandize, imported into the island under an annual Colonial Enactment; the same Act imposes a duty of 8*d.* currency per gallon on spirits distilled in the island; the amount of revenue under the above Act, was 9,816*l.* 6*s.* 5½*d.* An assessment of 4*s.* currency upon every 100 acres of unimproved land, and 2*s.* on every 100 acres of improved land in the several townships in the island; 4*s.* on each unimproved, and 2*s.* on each improved town lot, water lot, common lot, and pasture lot, in the town and royalty of Charlotte Town; 2*s.* 8*d.* on every unimproved, and 1*s.* 4*d.* on every improved town lot, water lot, and pasture lot, in the towns and royalties of George Town and Prince Town, imposed for 10 years from the signification of the Royal allowance in 1839, by a Colonial enactment of the 7th Will. IV., cap. 31, during which time Her Majesty's claim to quit rents is suspended. The proceeds of this Act in 1846, amount to 1,600*l.* 18*s.* 0¾*d.* Imperial duties collected under Statutes of the Imperial Parliament, the amount paid into the Colonial Treasury, in 1846, was 1,734*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, over and above the salaries of the officers of the Customs, and other disbursements of the establishment. Receipts at the Post-Office, which in 1846, amounted to 624*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.*

The foregoing comprise the principal sources of revenue; besides which, there is a duty payable on Retail Licences to sell Spiritous Liquors, &c, &c.; a tonnage duty on vessels for the support of Lighthouses, and maintaining Buoys and Beacons in the several harbours in the island; wharfage on vessels using the public wharfs, &c.

The revenue of 1846 exceeded the revenue of 1845 by the sum of 1624*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, which excess has arisen from the increased consumption of dutiable articles, particularly of foreign productions; the receipts in the Customs' department being nearly double those of the previous year.

The Parliamentary Grant of 3070*l.* is appropriated to the payment of the different public officers' salaries who are borne on the Parliamentary Estimates, and a pension to Charles Douglas Smith, Esq., the late Lieutenant-Governor of the island, as detailed in page 17; the other items of expenditure will be seen on reference to pages 17 to 31.

The expenditure of 1846 was less than that of 1845 by the sum of 5560*l.* 10*s.* 3¾*d.*, and less than the net revenue of 1846 by the sum of 3861*l.* 6*s.* 9½*d.*, and thus decreased the public debt of the island, bearing interest at 6 per cent., from 27,270*l.* to 23,409*l.* The heaviest item in the local expenditure of 1846 is Roads and Bridges, 3220*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*; the other items of expenditure are chiefly as follow:—

Civil Establishment, 5216*l.* 10*s.*; Public Buildings, 1436*l.* 19*s.* 5¼*d.*; Expenses of the Legislature, 1351*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; District Schools, 814*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*; Mails, 680*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*; Interest on Treasury Warrants, 1600*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*; Expenses of Gaols, 225*l.* 15*s.* 11¾*d.*; Crown Prosecutions, 82*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*; Public Printing and Stationery, 264*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.*; Lunatics and Paupers, 248*l.* 2*s.*; General Election, 170*l.* 12*s.* 6½*d.*; and the putting into effective operation the Lighthouse on Point Prim, 245*l.* 13*s.* 10¾*d.*

I issued a Commission in the past year for the purpose of inquiring into the

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

existing state of the currency of the island, and I beg to subjoin the Report of the Commissioners thereon.

Judicial Establishment.

The Judicial Establishment of the island consists of a Chief Justice, whose salary, is voted by the Imperial Parliament, see page 83; and two Assistant Judges, who have no salary or other emolument except what may arise from a few trifling fees for administering oaths and taxing Bills of Costs, &c. The Assistant Judges, as may naturally be inferred, are not professionally educated.

The Supreme Court sits four times a-year in Charlotte Town, viz., on the first Tuesday in January, and continues open fourteen days; on the first Tuesday in May, and continues open five days; on the last Tuesday in June, and continues open fourteen days; and on the last Tuesday in October, and continues open seven days. Twice a-year at George Town, viz., on the second Tuesday in March, and continues open seven days; and on the third Tuesday in July, and continues open seven days. And twice a-year at Saint Eleanor's, viz., on the first Tuesday in June and first Tuesday in October, and continues open on each occasion seven days. These Courts are all presided over by the Chief Justice, who receives a colonial allowance of 90*l.* a-year to defray his travelling expenses.

The Chief Justice also presides in the Instance Court of Vice-Admiralty.

The Lieutenant-Governor presides in the Court of Chancery, the Criminal Court of Vice Admiralty, and in the Court of Marriage and Divorce.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

This Establishment consists at present of six clergymen, stationed respectively at Charlotte Town, George Town, Saint Eleanor's, Port Hill, Crapaud, and Milton. The Rector at Charlotte Town, who is also Ecclesiastical Commissary, receives 100*l.* a-year from the Imperial Government, 100*l.* a-year from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 36*l.* a-year as officiating Chaplain to the Garrison, besides surplice fees; he has no parsonage-house, but his parishioners contribute about 70*l.* a-year in lieu thereof.

The other five clergymen draw the whole of their stipends from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; who have also liberally contributed to the erection of all the churches in the island, nine in number.

About half the population professes the Roman Catholic religion. The different religious sects, and the numbers of each, from the census taken in 1841, were as follow:—Roman Catholics, 24,430; members of the Church of Scotland, 12,006; members of the Church of England, 5707; Dissenters from the Church of Scotland, 3089; Wesleyan Methodists, 5421; Baptists, 1609; other denominations, 772: total population, 47,034. The present population may be estimated at 56,000.

Education.

There is an Academy in Charlotte Town, established under an Act of the Colonial Legislature, of 10th Geo. IV., cap. 9, and endowed with 270*l.* a-year. The Masters are appointed by certain Trustees, and were increased from two to three by the Act of 6th Vic., cap. 21; the Head Master receiving thereunder, 135*l.* a-year; the Second Master, 90*l.* a-year; and the Third Master, 45*l.* a-year, in addition to the tuition-money paid by the students, which is divided as follows:—one-half to the Head Master, one-third to the Second Master, and one-sixth part to the Third Master. There are also apartments in the Academy for the two senior Masters.

There is also a National School in Charlotte Town, the Master of which receives 31*l.* 10*s.* annually from the Colonial Government.

Besides the foregoing Establishments, there are 105 District Schools in different sections of the island, the masters of which, having previously undergone examinations by a Board of Education, established by law for that purpose, receive an annual allowance from the Colonial Government, varying in amount from 9*l.* to 22*l.* 10*s.*, according to the qualifications of the teacher and the locality of the school. The sum thus expended, in 1846, is already stated to have been 814*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, which also includes 22*l.* 10*s.* paid to five Acadian French teachers. A Visitor of Schools, appointed for that purpose, has hitherto had the superintendence of the District Schools, visiting them periodically; and he is required to lay a report of his proceedings before the two Houses of Legislature at their annual meeting. For this service, the School Visitor has received a

salary of 67*l.* 10*s.* By an Act of the Legislature, passed in the last Session, the number of School Visitors is increased to three—one for each county, at a salary of 30*l.* each.

The institution of three infant schools in this island, at Charlotte Town, George Town, and Saint Eleanor's, severally, have peculiarly marked the disposition to commence at an early age the cultivation of the mind. Previously to 1842 these schools were unknown in this island, and the introduction of them is mainly attributable to the zealous efforts of (then Lieutenant but now) Captain John Orlebar, R.N., an officer employed here upon the surveying service under Captain H. W. Bayfield, R.N.

Captain Orlebar not only generously subscribed from his own means the sum 100*l.* sterling, in aid of the erection of an infant school in Charlotte Town, but he also found time to assist in the general superintendence of this school, without at all interfering with his own heavy professional duties. Through his zeal and intelligence a system has been introduced which has given to the island three schools, in which infants and children, whose ages vary from three to ten years, have been, and are now under a course of training in the tenets of the Church of England, and the benefits of general education.

The further description of the Charlotte Town school, the origin, system, and progress of it, since its first institution, will be found in the following report, for which I called upon the Reverend Doctor Jenkins. The schools at Saint Eleanor's and George Town have been more recently established, but have proportionably advanced in utility, under the superintendence of the resident clergyman of the Church of England at each place. Each of them were aided by a grant of 66*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* sterling from the Glebe Land Fund, in aid of building, and each master receives from the same fund a salary of *l.* sterling.

" May it please your Excellency,

" We have the honour to lay before you the following account of the infant schools:—In the spring of 1842, Lieutenant Orlebar, R.N., being desirous of devoting 100*l.* sterling to educational purposes, laid before the members of the Church of England in Charlotte Town a proposition to give that sum towards the establishment of an infant school; his offer was received with great favour, and subscriptions to the amount of 100*l.* sterling (increased afterwards by a grant from the Glebe Fund of 66*l* 13*s.* 4*d.*) having been obtained, contracts were entered into by the churchwardens, and the present commodious building was erected and completed for that purpose. The school atands on the south-east corner of the church lot, in Queen Square, and is 70 feet long by 27 feet wide; and besides the school-room, which is 56 feet long by 27 feet wide, contains four small apartments for the master.

" The Master and Mistress, Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, who had been trained at the Gray's Inn Road Institute, London, were engaged at an annual salary of 50*l.* sterling, to be increased to 60*l* the third year, and their passage paid to this island. In the month of May they arrived at Charlotte Town, and a committee having been formed of ladies, communicants of the Church of England, the management of the school and all connected with it was intrusted to them, with instructions to confer with the rector and churchwardens of Saint Paul's in cases of any difficulty.

" The school was opened on the 18th of June of the same year, and has continued with tolerable success, giving instruction to an average number of 100 children, of ages varying from three to ten years. It has now been in operation nearly four years, and the number of pupils, from the commencement, amounts to 530.

" Through the instrumentality of your Excellency an annual grant of 20*l.* sterling has been allowed from the Glebe Fund towards the support of this institution.

" As the infant school was principally designed for the benefit of the poor, the price of instruction was made proportionably low, and the scale of charges was 2*d.* per week for children above six years, and 1½*d.* for the younger ones. An analysis of the receipts and expenditure for the four years ending May, 1847, is placed below, from which it will be seen that there is, since the withdrawal of the Legislative grant, a necessary dependence upon the contributions of the friends of religious education to the amount of 40*l.* per annum.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

ANALYSIS.

Received in Four Years.	£.	s.	d.	Expended in Four Years.	£.	s.	d.
Lieutenant Orlebar's Donation .	100	0	0	Materials for School . . .	45	0	0
Subscriptions, &c.	78	0	0	Masters fit-out and passage. .	39	4	0
Children's Pence	75	0	0	Salary for four years . . .	216	13	4
Legislative Grants	24	7	0	Disbursements for repairs . .	41	0	0
Glebe Fund	80	0	0	Wood and coal fuel. . . .	20	0	0
Total	357	7	0	Total . . .	361	17	4

"The instruction and training afforded to the children in this school are based on religious principles, and have special reference to the forming habits of observation, of cleanliness, of truth-telling, and honesty; and the Bible lesson derived from the preceptive and narrative portions of the word of God forms a prominent part of the daily routine. The school is opened in the morning at nine, by the master reading a short prayer, after which a hymn is sung, and the children then proceed to the gallery for the Bible lesson; this occupies half an hour, and afterwards they form in classes for reading, spelling, and writing. As more than 100 children are frequently in attendance, recourse is had to the monitory system, but only as a temporary assistance to the master and mistress, and by no means superseding their own personal exertions and teaching.

"Mr. Hubbard each day hears every child his prepared lesson in spelling or grammar, and Mrs. Hubbard hears the reading classes. The latter has especial charge of the younger children, and gives lessons on objects and arithmetic, while the elder children are employed at sums, writing, grammar, and geography. In the afternoon the girls are taught plain sewing. The school closes at half past three, when the children again sing a hymn and repeat a short prayer.

"On the Sabbath the Sunday-school is held in the same room, and about 190 children are instructed in the knowledge of the Scriptures. The Catechism of the Church of England is taught and explained, and portions of the New Testament are committed to memory. The school meets twice on the Sabbath, and in the afternoon school there are 20 teachers. A good library is attached to the school, and the books are eagerly read, not only by the children, but by their parents and friends.

(Signed) "L. C. JENKINS.
"Rector of St. Paul's, Charlotte Town."

Commerce.

The commerce of the island consists in the exchange of its agricultural productions, timber and manufactured deals, ships built therein, and a limited quantity of dry and pickled fish, caught on its shores, for British manufactures, and other articles of domestic consumption; to encourage the exportation of fish, a small bounty is granted by the Colonial Legislature. The mercantile intercourse is chiefly carried on with Great Britain and Ireland, the neighbouring colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, and the United States, see pages 130 to 153.

The returns of imports and exports cannot be considered a correct criterion of the extent of the trade of the colony. Shipping, as I have heretofore observed, is entirely omitted in the value of the exports, and at present it forms a very considerable item of domestic industry; independently of which, a large portion of the imports is necessarily employed in rendering it available as a marketable commodity; the number of vessels built in the island in 1846 was 82, and their tonnage exceeded 12,012 tons; and, as these were mostly sold in the United Kingdom at from 5*l.* to 6*l.* per ton, the amount thus realized would be about 66,000*l.*

The island is limited in its manufactures. There is a coarse and useful woollen cloth made and worn by the inhabitants, and a mill in the vicinity of Charlotte Town, where the business of fulling, dressing, and dying is carried on; the inhabitants also manufacture linens and flannels for domestic use, tan and dress leather, &c. An iron foundry has been established in Charlotte Town, the general utility of which I have on a former occasion observed upon.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Agriculture.

The chief permanent dependence of the Island is its agriculture, for which the soil is well adapted and easily worked. Grants of money for the importation of improved breeds of stock, implements of husbandry, seeds, &c., are made from time to time by the Legislature. Agricultural societies are also formed in the different districts of the island for the same object. The Central Agricultural Society, formed in Charlotte Town, is honoured with the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Albert; the extent of its productions, and other information relative thereto, are set forth in the Statistical Return for 1841.

Grants of Land.

The quantity of land remaining in the Crown is small, and of little value, that in the townships being too remote for immediate settlement, or otherwise of a very inferior quality, and consequently not sought after; there is a limited quantity still remaining in the Crown in the towns and royalties which is more valuable; by reference to page 162, it will appear that none of the former, and that 50 acres of the latter description, were granted in 1846.

Her Majesty the Queen, having granted the sum of 200*l.* currency out of the proceeds of sales of Crown lands, towards effecting a geological survey of the island, the survey was made during the past year, and I annex hereto the report of Dr. Gesner, who was employed for that purpose.

Public Works.

The only public work at present in progress is the Colonial building in Charlotte Town, which is now nearly completed, and in the erection of which there has been about 11,500*l.* expended.

Government House, May 15th, 1847.

(Signed) H. V. HUNTLEY, Lieut-Governor.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 38.) No. 4.

No. 4.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. Gaspard Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's,
My Lord, Newfoundland, August 24, 1847.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1846.

As the period embraced in this book is long antecedent to that at which I assumed the Government of this Colony, I do not feel myself called on to offer to your Lordship any observations on its contents.

I have, &c.,
The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c., &c. (Signed) J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

(No. 27.) No. 5.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Elliot to Earl Grey.

My Lord, Bermuda, March 17, 1847.

I have the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book: but I have been here so short a time, and the condition of the Colony has been so fully and ably reported upon by my predecessor, that I do not submit any observations of my own till I shall have had more opportunities and better means of maturing the remarks which I may venture to make. 1.

I have, &c.,
The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c., &c. (Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

BAHAMAS.
No. 6.

BAHAMAS.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MATHEW to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Government House, Nassau,
May 27, 1846.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the duplicate of the Blue Book for 1845, with a brief report thereon.

I look to the establishment of a colonial vessel before the commencement of another year to remove the difficulty I have experienced, from the paucity of communication, in obtaining these returns from the Turks, and various other out-islands.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The returns now forwarded show a total net revenue, collected in 1845, of 26,088*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, exceeding, by the sum of 580*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, the amount received in 1844; but, from the above sum, it would probably be more correct to deduct the sum of 2118*l.* 4*s.*, arrears of revenue of 1844. The actual revenue for 1845 may, therefore, be placed at 23,970*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, exhibiting a decrease of 1537*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with the preceding year.

The expenditure for 1845 is returned at 23,779*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, thus leaving a *small actual surplus of income of* 190*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* *over expenditure.*

This expenditure exhibits a small increase of 128*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* against that of the preceding year, but it must be observed, that a considerable sum applied to the relief of the distressed inhabitants of these islands during 1844, a year of absolute famine, is reckoned in this expenditure.

The duties on *imports* will be found to present a small decrease against 1844 of 578*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, but, I apprehend, Sir, that your inspection of the accompanying tables will confirm my opinion of the generally improved state of the Colony, the chief decrease arising upon articles, constituting the necessaries of life, the cultivation of which it has been my earnest endeavour to encourage, and which have, during 1845, been grown to a greater extent within the Colony, while the articles on which there is an increase are those of luxury solely, thus testifying to the increase of wealth; the decrease on the importation of corn (Indian) has amounted to 707*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, and on that of rice to 300*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*

On the *duties upon exports* there appears a decrease of 1050*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, the cause of which must be attributed to the deficiency in the salt duty of no less than 1211*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

Although the salt-raker, owing to the high prices, enjoyed a remunerative season, the diminution of the quantity raked, in consequence of the unusually heavy late rains, has thus lessened the revenue.

I have reason to hope that the changes contemplated in the collection and imposition of this duty, although probably on a reduced scale, will obviate the inconvenience of similar unexpected future fluctuations.

Imports.

The value of the imports for 1845 amounts to the sum of 144,074*l.*, being a decrease of 22,667*l.* on the value of the imports of 1844.

This decrease is solely on imports from the United States and other foreign countries, there being an *increase* of 27,496*l.* against 1844 on the value of the imports from Great Britain.

Shipping.

I am happy to report a general increase of tonnage entered in the ports of the Bahamas in 1845. The return amounts to 68,504 tons, and that of 1844 to 58,503 tons. The amount of British tonnage in 1845 is 5640; in 1844, 3434.

The commerce of the islands is somewhat reviving, and I contemplate a considerable addition to it, should the more settled and thriving state of the neighbouring Spanish Dominican Republic lead to its timely recognition by Her Majesty's Government, with the privileges extended to allied nations.

I am further induced, by the importance of the subject, to take the liberty of expressing my hope that Her Majesty's ministers may again take into their

* This despatch was not received until the Reports for 1845 had been laid before Parliament.

consideration the memorial of the inhabitants of the Bahamas, praying for the full privileges of a "free port."

I am persuaded that the extension of these privileges to Nassau would be of equal benefit to the mercantile interests of the British North American possessions and of the West Indian Colonies as to the inhabitants of the Bahamas. Nassau would in all probability become not only the depôt of the chief trade between the United States and all the countries within the gulf of Mexico, whose native vessels are, in every instance, of a small class, but would also, as the general mart, be the means of transferring to British American, or West Indian, vessels, the great trade in provisions, flour, lumber, and fish, on the one hand, and of sugar, coffee, spirits, and other tropical produce, on the other, of which the United States vessels are now the chief carriers.

As it must be borne in mind that a neighbouring foreign island now monopolises the great advantages derivable from the privileges of a free port, the importance of transferring some share of these great commercial benefits to British subjects, and to a port subject to British control, will be readily admitted.

Civil Department.

In the Civil Department the expenditure in 1845 is 9041*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, and in 1844, was 9290*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, showing a decrease of expenditure of 249*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* to be attributed to some small reductions of various salaries.

The establishment remains on its former footing.

Fifty-three Acts passed the Legislature during 1845, of which the following may be deemed the most important:—

An Act to repeal the tax on Aliens being Merchants or Shopkeepers in the Bahamas.

An Act amending the Police Act.

An Act amending the Education Act, by opening the Board to laymen or ministers of the various Christian denominations.

A Pilotage Act, abolishing the Pilotage monopoly, and opening it to competition among qualified pilots, under proper regulations, and at reduced rates.

An Act to amend the Quarantine Act.

An Act to abolish Arrest in Civil Cases.

An Act to simplify the transfer of Property.

An Act to abolish the Inferior Court, and to transfer the Jurisdiction to existing Courts.

An Act for the relief of Insolvent Debtors.

An Act establishing a Court of Bankruptcy.

An Act to amend the Militia Laws.

An Act to re-establish the former Colonial School, called the King's College.

An Act to promote Vaccination throughout the Islands at the public expense.

An Act to provide Pensions for the Widows and Children of public Officers by deductions annually from their Salaries.

An Act regulating the general Poor-house at Nassau, and establishing a Lunatic Hospital.

An amendment to the Parochial Act, adding to the establishment of the Church of England in these Islands, and extending the jurisdiction and patronage of the Lord Bishop.

Ecclesiastical Department.

In the Ecclesiastical Department the expenditure for 1845 amounts to 3942*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, that for 1844 to 4387*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, showing a decrease of 444*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, which, however, is chiefly owing to temporary vacancies in the clerical appointments.

A considerable addition to the establishment has been made during the year under the amended Parochial Act. An additional parish and two chapelries have been established in New Providence, with the requisite salaries.

The islands have all been placed in parishes, and have been formed into districts under a particular missionary, or minister in holy orders, who, residing at a central and most populous point, will visit his entire district at stated periods.

Salaries have been provided for a minister at Salt Cay, and for the islands of Exuma and Long Island.

Judicial Department.

The expenditure in the judicial department is 6246*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, showing a *decrease* of 636*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* on the expenditure for 1844 (6882*l.* 18*s.*), caused by the more economical and efficient regulation of the police, under the Act above referred to.

Some further change has taken place in this establishment, by the abolition of the inferior Court, and the creation of Courts of Bankruptcy.

Military Department.

The militia force has been placed on a more efficient footing by the Act of 1845; it has hitherto been only embodied in New Providence and at the Turks' Islands, but I entertain the hope of being enabled to extend the operation of the Act among the other islands, at the wish and request of the inhabitants.

At the Turks' Islands three light infantry companies are embodied.

These corps are generally well armed, clothed, and accoutred; they are animated by the best possible spirit.

Public Works.

The chief public works in 1845, consist in various additions to the general poor's house or asylum, which has been newly regulated, by the establishment of work for *all*, suited to the age and habits of the inmates, and by other useful amendments. A bath and ablution house has for the first time been erected, and a wing to serve as a lunatic asylum, with wards looking upon an extensive garden, is in progress of building.

Various useful works are progressing at the Turks' Islands, in making canals, roads, and shipping wharfs, to facilitate the culture and exportation of salt; these works are mainly defrayed from the Crown rents of the Salt Pond leases.

Harbours.

Under this head I would beg to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the importance of the harbours in these islands, which have been most ably surveyed by Commander Barnett of Her Majesty's ship "Thunder," and by Lieutenant Lawrance, of Her Majesty's schooner "Lark," and to the inability of the Colony to expend the sum requisite for their improvement, and for their due maintenance in order.

The bar at the entrance of Nassau Harbour might, it is understood, be removed at a very moderate expense by Government by the use of the galvanic battery at Bermuda, and the depth of the harbour by dredging, and by the consequent influx of the tide in a greater volume, might be greatly increased.

I have already had the opportunity of calling the attention of Her Majesty's Secretary of State to the advantages offered by the mainland, or the adjacent islands at Cochrane's Anchorage, for the establishment of a penal station for the West Indies, not only from the healthiness and comparative coolness of the climate, from the power of producing on the spot everything required for support, and from the presence of a military force and a medical staff, but also from the constant and remunerative labour which the vicinity of a Government salt pond, as well as the harbour and other usual employments, would afford.

It has also appeared to me that a far more advantageous arrangement for the public, and one more beneficial to the Company, would be effected, if the Royal Mail Steam Company selected Cochrane's Anchorage as the first point from England, and as the depôt for their large steamers, and permitted a smaller and more suitable vessel to circulate the mails within the Gulf. The transmission to the most important points of English mails, would be much accelerated, and Government would always be enabled, in the event of need, to find two large steamers at New Providence, of whose services they might avail themselves without impeding correspondence, as the smaller class might, on emergencies, proceed to England.

The Company would be large eventual gainers by the diminished expense of coals, and by the lesser damage in the event of accidents or repairs, as well as by the lines of communication which would be established with the southern ports of the United States.

Population.

The population returns amount to 13,032 males, and 13,459 females, not including 181 resident aliens. The births throughout the colony have been 482. The marriages 259, and the deaths 383.

Passing over the more wealthy class, and the holders of public offices, who are chiefly residents at Nassau, or in the Turks' Islands, the population of the Bahamas may be divided into three classes,—the white creole inhabitants, the coloured creoles, and the Africans landed at various times from slavers captured by British vessels cruising in the vicinity of Cuba, where I regret to have reason to believe as considerable a number as ever are landed, bringing merely a larger price from the risks of transit. Nor will, I apprehend, this trade be checked, until it is declared piracy.

The white creole inhabitants are for the most part settled in New Providence, Harbour Island, Eleuthera, and Abaco; they are employed in ship-building, wrecking, turtling, and fishing, but I regret to say, that although often in very distressed circumstances, they have hitherto been disinclined to manual agricultural labour, or to domestic service, and have by no means overcome the most violent prejudices of colour. I sincerely hope that in a rising generation at least, these habits and prejudices, which have been entertained so much to their own injury, will be lost sight of.

It is impossible for me to speak too strongly of the rapid advancement of the coloured creole class in these islands, they are imbued with the strongest feelings of loyalty and attachment to Great Britain, and evince it by their general good conduct and respect for the laws. I have only had to remark, with regret, a partial imbibing of the prejudices of their white neighbours with reference to manual agricultural labour.

The Africans are a very uninformed class, but generally speaking, they have been well behaved, and have been willingly guided by their respectable ministers. The labour executed in the Colony, and especially in the salt-raking island, is almost wholly performed by this class.

The crimes have been almost exclusively cases of petty pilfering in fruit-orchards, and of trifling assaults.

Education.

The amended Education Act passed in the beginning of the year 1845, opens the Board of Education to laymen or ministers, of all denominations, under the appointment of the Governor, and although constant attempts at obstruction have arisen from a quarter whence they were to be least expected, the Act has worked well, and will unite all denominations in its support.

An annual sum of 1300*l.* is granted to the Board for the support of their schools, (27 in number,) and for a secretary, who is bound to make an annual tour of inspection.

The great distress of the preceding year, may account satisfactorily for the small amount of 10*l.*, collected from the usual penny contributions.

The lists of attending scholars in the colony amounts to 2,059.

Currency.

The circulating currency is estimated at 20,000*l.*

The paper currency has been cancelled.

Agriculture—Produce.

The cultivation of the pine, which is sold at a dollar and a quarter a dozen in the root, as exported to England, and at one dollar when cut for sale in the United States, is rapidly increasing.

Steps have been taken to obtain the St. Michael's orange, and this cultivation, with that of the grape-fruit, the shaddock, and the forbidden fruit is also extending. Indian corn and provisions are also more grown.

The crop in the salt islands was short this year, but the price having, towards the close, risen gradually to 15 cents (7½*d.*) per bushel, the net profit to the raker being about 5½*d.* at that price, the leaseholder has enjoyed a very favourable season.

BAHAMAS.

The turtling fishery has received a great impetus, by the establishment of several houses for preparing turtle in tins, for the European market.

The wages of the labourers may be taken generally at from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* In the Eleuthera pine fields at 2*s.*, and in the salt ponds at 2*s.* 6*d.*, but I am sorry to say, that the truck system still prevails, as a natural consequence of a cultivation which is only partial through the year, and of the unwillingness of the labourers to agree to yearly contracts at a reduced rate.

Grants of Land.

The price of land, and the miserable nature of the soil in most of the islands, have much impeded the very desirable object of obtaining settlers on the various islands; it is therefore much to be wished that some discretionary power of making grants to individuals, willing and able to make settlements, were vested in the Governor.

Climate.

The climate of the Bahamas is generally very healthy; in the salt islands, from the probable salt impregnations, no epidemic disease has ever been known.

Owing to some marshy land, below the sea level, which no efforts have availed in remedying, part of the town of Nassau is perhaps the only unhealthy settlement in the Bahamas. During the three autumn months fevers have been very prevalent there, which have, in no case, extended into the country.

I subjoin an average of meteorological observations for seven years, taken daily at 9 A. M., 3 P. M., and 9 P. M., the maximum heat during day, and minimum at night, taken by register thermometers. The instruments were kept for two years in a wooden house in a room having a north-west aspect, and for five years in a substantial stone house in a room having an eastern aspect; the first about 70 feet from the seaside, and 20 above its level, the latter about one-sixth of a mile from the sea, and 90 feet above its level.

The barometer in this climate is scarcely at all effected by damp or dry weather, but much so by wind.

In summer, the wind blowing almost always from north-east to south-east, it varies but little, being highest when the wind is north-east, and falling, as it verges to south-east. It falls also about the time of the heavy rains in spring and autumn.

In winter the wind is frequently westerly, and its changes are foretold with much certainty by the barometer; the mercury rises highest with the north-east and falls lowest with the west wind, and in proportion for intermediate changes.

	Barometer.	Thermometer.	Prevailing Wind.	Inches Rain.
January	30·10	73	N. to E.	4·72
February	30·24	71	N.E. to N.W.	3·75
March	30·07	72	N.E.	1·06
April	30·03	75	N.E. and S.E.	1·82
May	30·00	79	S.E. and N.E.	2·25
June	30·09	81	S.E.	5·13
July	30·11	84	S.E.	4·68
August	30·15	84	S.E.	7·11
September . . .	29·97	81	N.E. and S.E.	9·64
October	29·99	80	N.E.	7·80
November . . .	30·00	76	N.E.	2·25
December . . .	30·02	72	N.E. and N.W.	1·70

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 24.) No. 7. BAHAMAS. No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MATHEW to Earl GREY.

Government House, Nassau,
MY LORD, March 20, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Bahamas Blue Book for 1846. It is gratifying to me to be enabled to report to your Lordship the continuance of the small but steady increase of the Colonial Revenue, which I was enabled in my two last annual Reports to communicate.

Revenue.

The returns now forwarded exhibit an increase of revenue in the year 1846 as compared with that of the preceding year of 2,042*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.*, the tables showing an increase of 4,523*l.* 10*s.* 3¼*d.* against a decrease of 2,480*l.* 17*s.* 3¾*d.*

Imports and Exports.

In the increase may be noted an augmentation of 601*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* in the Custom House receipts; of 405*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* on spirits, &c.; of 274*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* on refined sugar; of 604*l.* 14*s.* on *ad valorem* duties; and of 152*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.* New 5 per Cent. duty. On imports, &c., of 209*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* on tonnage duty; and of 102*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.* on Salt Pond shares, on exports, &c.

The chief decrease appears to be of 372*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* on wheat flour; of 226*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* on corn and pulse; of 361*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* on wines; and of 525*l.* 3*s.* 10¾*d.* on the vendue or auction tax.

I conceive myself justified in considering the decrease on the two first-named articles as solely caused by the temporary increase of price in North America; the diminution of revenue on wines must also be attributed to the first year's operation of the reduction of duty in the present colonial tariff.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of the Colony for 1846 amounted to 22,745*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, while its revenue was (with 1,628*l.* 16*s.* arrears of last year) 27,569*l.* 1*s.* 8½*d.*; thus showing a diminution of expenditure of 1,034*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* as compared with 1845.

Councils.

During the year Messrs. Misick and Arthur (of the Turks' Islands) were added to the Executive and Legislative Councils respectively on the decease of the Hon. J. Storr.

Assembly.

The legal duration of the House of Assembly having terminated, a general election took place, which was marked by unusual unanimity in nearly every district. It is supposed that with the exception of three individuals the new members have every disposition to support the views of Her Majesty's Government, as at present established in these islands.

Legislation.

On reference to page 58 your Lordship will perceive that 22 Acts passed the Legislature in the year, of which the new Tariff Act, the Pilotage Act, and the Act for the Establishment of a Public Dispensary, may be noticed as of public importance.

The entire of these Acts were transmitted to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, with the usual accompanying reports.

General Remarks.

Having transmitted a full report on the condition of these islands to your Lordship, with the Blue Book of 1845, I am enabled to avoid trespassing at length upon your Lordship's time on the present occasion.

BAHAMAS.

I have the gratification of observing that the progress lately made in agriculture and in the planting of various fruits continues to advance, although somewhat impeded by temporary circumstances connected with the late measures of the United States.

The pine and fruit crop proved highly remunerative to the planters, and an excellent return was obtained from the demand and price of salt in the Turks' Islands. In the conviction that the demand from the United States and British America will fully meet any supply the Bahamas can produce, I am endeavouring to revive the cultivation of salt in the other islands of this Government, where it was formerly produced in quantities exceeding those of the Turks' Islands.

I have to repeat my favourable opinion of the conduct of the inhabitants of these islands, and especially of the coloured classes, and of the diminution of the thefts on which I had previously remarked.

I trust that a more general and more liberal plan of education will come into force in 1847, upon the expiration of the present Act, and will be the means of extending to the inhabitants of the out-islands that practical knowledge of which they are so greatly in need.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) G. B. MATHEW.
&c. &c. &c.

P.S. I take the liberty of transmitting with the present Blue Book a plan of Nassau gaol, which should have accompanied that of 1845 for publication

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BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 8.

(No. 17.)

No. 8.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to Earl GREY.

Government House, Barbados,
May 8, 1847.

MY LORD,

Blue Books of Grenada, Tobago, and St. Lucia for 1846.

Reports.
Grenada, March 18th, 1847.
Tobago, April 2nd and 15th, 1847.
St. Lucia, March 11th and 8th, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Statistical Returns of the Windward Islands, accompanied by Annual Reports from the Lieutenant-Governors of Grenada, and Tobago. The officer administering the Government of St. Lucia, Lieut.-Colonel Hay, having only recently succeeded Lieut.-Colonel Torrens in the administration of the Government of that Island, has not yet had an opportunity of making a General Report. But I shall annex some observations made by Colonel Hay on the very important subject of conducting education in St. Lucia, so as to endeavour to prevent its leading to religious dissensions.

From the limited time I have been here, I must necessarily confine my own observations on Barbados, and the other Windward Islands to a very few remarks.

Having served in the West Indies 13 years ago, the most gratifying changes I have observed since my recent arrival in this Government are, that a spirit for inquiry has risen up, and that a general desire is exhibited to admit all reasonable improvements, whether in the cultivation of the staple commodities, or in the improvement of the people.

* * * * *

The greatest hinderance to improvement in St. Lucia is the want of the English language. Whilst visiting that Island I was greatly struck with the application of the infant school system, as a means for establishing our own language, in possessions originally colonized by other countries as in St. Lucia. The infant schools under the Mico charity are like well regulated nurseries, where the children of French origin learn English. In withdrawing aid from other Colonies the trustees of the Mico charity have judged well to maintain their schools in St. Lucia. These schools might be increased there, and more

BARBADOS.

March 19th, 1847.

particularly the infant school branch of their system, could the Society afford it, with very great advantage. If all the children in that Island were placed in such infant schools, the whole of that generation would have the advantage of speaking both the English and French languages. In these Mico schools of St. Lucia I had the pleasure of seeing the energy belonging to Mr. Stowe's training school at Glasgow, transplanted to the tropics. The schools under the trustees for this charity have this great advantage, that they do not interfere with particular Christian doctrines, and none but such schools should, in my judgment, receive aid from the revenues of St. Lucia.

Of the attempts which have been made to introduce additional labourers into St. Lucia, that which appears most likely to have a permanent effect is the recent introduction of natives of Barbadoes as settlers. In that district which lies next to the island of St. Vincent, there is already established what may be regarded as a Barbados colony, though on a small scale. I think it probable that it will gradually increase, and that the families of the Barbados planters will extend their operations to St. Lucia, supporting these operations by themselves, sending labourers from Barbados. The population of Barbados, already dense, is fast increasing, so that in a few years more, emigration to the neighbouring islands will be a natural consequence. I cannot but regard the prospects of settling the spare lands of St. Lucia from Barbados, as one of much interest to both islands.

The West India press, as an instrument for general improvement, has not, I think, been sufficiently appreciated. Within this Windward Island Government there are 15 newspapers, besides the Barbados Agricultural Reporter, viz., at

Barbados . . .	5
Grenada . . .	2
St. Vincent . . .	3
Tobago . . .	3
St. Lucia . . .	2

I have no desire whatever to see the influence of the public press over the conduct of the local governments weakened. What I desire, is to see a periodical press more particularly directed to the general improvement of the different communities amongst which these papers circulate. Licentious language indulged in by a portion of the press, by casting a degree of discredit upon the whole, doubtless restrains many persons, capable of aiding to raise the character of the people amongst whom these papers circulate, from giving them any support at all. I allude to this subject, from the conviction I entertain of its importance, and in the hope of being the means of directing more attention to the value of a well-conducted local press.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM REID, Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

GRENADA.

No. 9.

No. 9.

ENCLOSURE in Governor REID'S DESPATCH to Earl GREY, No. 17, 8th May, 1847.

Government House, Grenada,
March 18, 1847.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1846.

In forwarding the present Report on the state of the Colony, it may be proper for me to mention that I arrived here and assumed the Government in December last. Since that period I have travelled through a great part of the island, which is said to contain about 80,000 acres.

General description of the island.

Although deriving its name from the Spaniards, Grenada was settled by the French about the year 1650, and ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. It was again under the dominion of France from 1779 until the general pacification in 1783, when it was restored to the British Crown. Its settlement by the French, and the time during which it remained under their Government, account for the popular religion and language. The majority of the working population profess the Roman Catholic religion, and the French tongue or a mixed patois is their ordinary language. A large number, indeed, do not understand English, which occasions the employment of interpreters in the supreme and magisterial Courts. This difference of language between the administrators of the law and the people, between the employers and employed, may be regretted, and will only be removed by the operation of time and circumstances.

I subjoin an abstract of the population of the island and its dependencies, according to the last Census, taken in June, 1844, at which time it was calculated there were 28,923 inhabitants, exclusive of prisoners in gaol, the crews of vessels, and the garrison; making a total of 29,650 persons.

This is a large population compared with the small quantity of produce exported, when it is considered that the Colony is chiefly dependent on the state of its agriculture, there being no manufactories except those for the staple commodities of sugar and rum.

The following summary of exports for the two last years has been obtained from the Treasurer's office:—

SUMMARY of EXPORTS.

Years.	Value of Goods, the produce of the Island, paying 3 per Cent. *ad valorem*.	Muscovado Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Cotton.	Yams.	Charcoal.	Arrowroot.	Shrub.
	£. s. d.	lbs.	Galls.	Galls.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Barrels.	Barrels.	lbs.	Galls.
1845	874 9 3	8,661,381	99,330	41,649	20	385,551	28,873	1,659	608	2,034	273
1846	766 16 6	9,196,538	167,921	44,481	8,082	374,686	9,166	3,354	148	601	332

It cannot be concealed that the Colony has not of late years advanced. Various reasons are assigned for its depression, such as the state of the seasons; the unsettled habits of the working population; the unlimited extent of ground allowed them without rent for the cultivation of provisions; the want of unanimity in the employers, and an undue competition for labour; and the absence of a sufficient number of resident proprietors. These may be some of the causes which have tended to increase the embarrassments of the landed interest; but it is to the spirit of improvement, combined with a willing exertion and hearty determination on their part to meet and overcome the difficulties of their position that the planters must look for restoring the era of prosperity.

The climate, as a tropical one, is healthy; and in the elevated portions of the island the temperature is cool and pleasant. It is traversed from north to south by a range of mountains upwards of 3000 feet high, from which others

of less elevation branch off, forming a succession of rich extensive valleys which, as they approach the sea, particularly in the south-east or windward side, open into level alluvial plains. In passing through the island, the traveller cannot but observe the large quantity of land which has never been under tillage, and the slight belt on the sea coast which is in cultivation. The comparison affords strength to the often-repeated declaration of the planters that they are suffering from want of population: this leads me to notice the measures which have been adopted for the encouragement of immigration.

Immigration.

Immigration.

The first attempt to obtain an increase of population was made in 1839, being an undertaking by individuals, the owners or proprietors of plantations in Grenada, who joined together for the purpose of procuring a supply of agricultural labourers from Malta.

The peasantry of that island were represented to the gentlemen who united in this spirited experiment, as superior to the other southern people of Europe in their endurance of fatigue and heat, and as well adapted for the change. A vessel was accordingly sent to Malta, and 164 persons were there selected in families, who, accompanied by a priest, a medical attendant and interpreter, arrived in December of that year under contract to work on the properties of the importers for the period of five years, for certain stipulated wages and allowances. Substantial cottages were built and prepared for the emigrants; but after the expiration of the first year of their engagement they refused to fulfil their part of the contract, or to perform any agricultural labour. This enterprise, which entailed much loss on the projectors, entirely failed. Many of the Maltese left the island, but there are still several residing in it who are said to have earned and saved considerable sums of money by keeping retail shops and as hucksters, going over the country with goods for sale.

A few labourers have since been imported from Madeira, in respect of whom a bounty of 334*l.* was paid by the Colony.

By an Act, No. 350 of the printed laws, passed in December, 1845, a duty of 6*d.* per gallon is imposed upon rum the produce of the Colony, consumed or sold for consumption therein, the same to be applied for the purposes of immigration; under which Act there was levied in the first year,

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Duty on 142,367 gallons rum .	3559	3	9
A fine	2	10	0
Making together . .	3561	13	9

By another Act, No. 366 of the printed laws, passed in August, 1846, the following bounties are directed to be paid to the importers, from the undermentioned places, of agricultural labourers who shall enter into an indenture or written contract made or ratified before or in the presence of a stipendiary justice, to work on any estate or lands for one year, and any children above the age of 10 and under the age of 15 years, who shall accompany such labourers being their children, reputed children, or near relatives:

Every labourer from the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries, and the Cape de Verd Islands	£4
Every child above 10 and under 15 years, from any of those places	£2

The sum of 5000*l.* is also authorized to be expended under this Act, in payment of the expenses which may be incurred in conveying Africans, captured under the authority of any treaty or Act of Parliament for the abolition of the Slave Trade to Grenada, or incident thereto, and for their support and maintenance there, until they can be properly located to the satisfaction of the Governor.

As there can be no doubt that this island would be benefited by an increase of population, I willingly invite the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the expenditure authorized by the local authorities for the removal and location of a portion of the captured Africans. The sum of 3227*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* is now

GRENADA.

applicable for immigration purposes, and the duty on rum may be expected to yield 800*l.* per quarter.

Port.

Port.

The harbour of St. George, adjoining the chief town of that name, affords great facilities as a shipping place. The town is built in part upon a peninsula projecting into the bay; and on one side of the intersecting ridge is the open bay, and on the other a large basin of water which retains the French name of Carénage, and is surrounded by wharfs. In this Carénage the ships are nearly land locked, and the steamers, vessels of 1800 tons, lie alongside the wharfs and are coaled without the use of boats. These circumstances, and the fact that the island is exempt from hurricanes, attach much importance to the Port as a naval station.

The last Act passed by the Legislature previous to the capture of the island by the French, in the year 1779, appears by the printed collection of laws to have been an Act for granting an aid to the Crown by negro labour for the establishment of a Royal Dock and Dockyard.

These have never been constructed; but the advantages of the harbour as a place of shelter and general rendezvous, more particularly during the hurricane season, have appeared to naval officers to be so obvious and important, as to form the subject of particular comment for the consideration of the Admiralty. I believe that a Report on the striking natural advantages of Grenada, as a naval station, was made to Sir George Cockburn in the year 1835, by the late Commodore Jones, then in command of the Vestal, and senior officer of the Barbados Division. The Port has been selected by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company as a coal depôt and central station whence their steamers radiate.

Shipping and trade.

I subjoin the following returns obtained from the Customs relative to the shipping and trade:—

ACCOUNT of the NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS which entered Inwards and cleared Outwards at the Port of ST. GEORGE, GRENADA, during the Year ended 5th January, 1847; distinguishing the Countries to which they belonged, and the Number and Tonnage of Vessels importing Coals for the use of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

No. 1.

Countries to which the Vessels belonged.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
British Vessels:—				
Ships importing coals for the use of the Royal Mail Steam-Packet Company	34	10,657	..	..
Ships from the United Kingdom and British Possessions, from Foreign States and their Possessions	334	12,685	365	21,963
Foreign Vessels, viz.—				
Spain	1	119	1	119
Sweden	5	110	5	110
United States	20	3,379	18	3,051
Columbia	21	917	19	734
Total	415	27,867	408	25,977

GRENADA.

No. 2.

ACCOUNT of the NUMBER and TONNAGE of Registered Shipping belonging to the Port of ST. GEORGE, GRENADA, for the Three Years ended 5th January, 1847.

Years.	Number of Vessels.	Registered Tonnage.
1844	49	822
1845	44	701
1846	39	555

GRENADA.

No. 3.

ACCOUNT of the ESTIMATED VALUE of Imports and Exports for the Three Years ending 5th January, 1847.

Years.	Estimated Value of Imports.						Total.			Estimated Value of Exports.						Total.		
	In British Ships.			In Foreign Ships.						In British Ships.			In Foreign Ships.					
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1844 .	124,699	11	6	16,803	15	11	141,503	7	5	121,302	8	7	459	1	8	121,761	10	3
1845 .	133,445	1	6	21,563	11	10	155,008	13	4	121,040	14	8	401	5	10	121,442	0	6
1846 .	116,752	14	9	24,940	4	4	141,692	19	1	130,535	16	8	1,539	9	0	132,075	5	8
Total .	374,897	7	9	63,307	12	1	438,204	19	10	372,878	19	11	2,399	16	6	375,278	16	5

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following abstract of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last three years has been supplied by the public treasurer.

GRENADA.

REVENUE.

1844			1845			1846			Average.		
£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
20,152	5	6	20,437	5	9	23,540	7	8	21,376	12	11½

EXPENDITURE.

12,692	1	2	12,884	18	1	17,103	12	2	14,226	17	1½

I shall conclude this Report with a few observations on the subject of the churches, schools, hospital, and gaol of the Colony.

Churches and Schools.

Churches and schools.

There are seven churches and chapels in Grenada, and one church at Carriacou, consecrated for Divine service, and belonging to the Established Church of England, and a chapel or chapel-school, called St. Paul's, in the parish of St. George, at which a licensed reader occasionally attends. The walls of another chapel, in the town of St. George, are completed, and the Legislature has resolved to erect a new church at Carriacou, the present building being of wood, and dilapidated. There are five resident clergymen belonging to the establishment.

There is a school in the town of St. George, and in each parish, in aid of which 380*l.* was granted by the Legislature in the year 1846. Among these are the central schools, having on their list 125 boys and 70 girls, with an average daily attendance of 75 to 80 boys and 46 to 50 girls. I can offer no return at present of the number of scholars receiving instruction in the parishes.

It is indispensable that the system of education in this colony should undergo revision and improvement.

The Church of Scotland has one church in the town of St. George, which was erected by subscription and Legislative grant about the year 1832, and is served by a resident minister, and another Presbyterian minister has lately arrived in the Colony, intending to reside in the country.

The Wesleyan establishment numbers five places of worship, five schools, and 292 scholars, with an average daily attendance of 208 scholars. These schools were assisted by a grant from the Legislature in 1846 of 230*l.*

The Roman Catholic population, which, as I have observed, is the most numerous portion of the community, possesses seven places of worship in the Colony. These have all been erected or rebuilt since the emancipation. The labourers have contributed largely to their erection. The Legislature has also made grants of some amount for that purpose, and in the year 1846 the sum of 750*l.* was voted and paid towards erecting Roman Catholic churches in the parish of St. Patrick and the united parishes of St. John and St. Mark. I have not been able to obtain any accurate statement respecting their schools.

GRENADA.

Hospital.

Hospital.

During the dominion of the French, about the year 1738, a hospital for the reception of poor and indigent sick people was established, partly by charitable subscription and partly by the Royal bounty, and lands were purchased and appropriated for the support and maintenance of the hospital. It is now incorporated by Act, under the denomination of the "Governor and Directors of the Colony Hospital of Grenada," and is the only institution of the kind in the Colony. It is supported by the rents of the lands belonging to the Corporation, which may average 200*l.* per annum, by occasional donations from individuals, and of late by an annual grant from the Legislature, which in the last year was 200*l.* Formerly there was a hospital on each plantation, and medical attendance was provided at the expense of the proprietor, which continued for some time after the abolition of slavery; but this practice, if not generally discontinued, is now declining.

A public hospital in each parish or populous district would essentially contribute to the relief of the sick poor, and the aggregate expense would, probably, be less than the burthen formerly borne by the landed interest. The subject has been brought under the consideration of the Assembly, at the instance of the inhabitants of the fertile parish of St. Andrew.

Gaol.

Gaol.

There is only one gaol and house of correction in the island, which is situate in the town of St. George. The building was not originally designed as a place of confinement; but with a view of remedying the existing defects, I have recently issued a Commission, directed to a Member of Council, two Members of the Assembly, the Speaker being one, and the resident Officer of Engineers, to visit and inspect the gaol, with power to examine the officers and prisoners, and report to me as to its present state, the means of improving the same, and insuring cleanliness and proper ventilation, and a due classification of the prisoners, reference being also had to certain instructions which are annexed to the Commission and to this Report.

I am happy to state that there is not any debtor in gaol.

I subjoin an interesting report from Mr. Gurley, the stipendiary justice of Carriacou, respecting that dependency.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON, Lieut.-Governor.

Governor Reid,
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

INSTRUCTIONS annexed to Commission issued by Lieutenant-Governor HAMILTON to Visit and Inspect the Gaol at Grenada.

THE object of the appointment of the visitors on this occasion is to obtain a faithful report of the present state of the gaol and the means of improving it.

Several inquiries have, from time to time, been made into the state of the gaol; but they have led to no practical result. The alterations which have been recommended have not been approved of, or have been considered too costly by the Assembly.

The attention of the inspectors is directed to the report and estimate of Lieut. Tylee, of the Royal Engineers, dated 12th May, 1842; to the report of Messrs. Ross, Justyne, and Roach, dated 27th April, 1844; Mr. Justyne's letter to Lieutenant-Governor Doyle, dated 29th April, 1844; the report of the Committee of Public Buildings, dated 20th September, 1844; and Mr. Justyne's report, dated 24th October, 1845.

It may be observed that the Assembly appear to be opposed to any unnecessary expense; but it may be assumed that the honourable House will provide means for effecting such alterations as may be required for rendering the gaol a fit place of confinement for prisoners, and ensuring cleanliness and proper ventilation, and a due classification of prisoners.

The Lieutenant-Governor desires a full report from the inspectors under the following heads:—

1st. The present state of the gaol as a place of confinement for prisoners. Under this head mention should be made of the size and description of the rooms and yards—the number of day-rooms and dormitories—the number of prisoners that can be conveniently accommodated—the average number of prisoners usually in the gaol—the average number of debtors, stating the number in confinement on and since the 1st January last—the average proportion of the sexes, and the accommodation afforded to the sick.

2ndly. The alterations and repairs which are necessary for ensuring the security, cleanliness, and proper ventilation of the gaol, and a due classification of the prisoners. Regard must be

had to the average number of prisoners usually confined in the gaol—the means of effecting the separation of the male and female prisoners—the separation of debtors from criminals—affording separate accommodation for the sick—procuring a due supply of water—the removal of any nuisance—the employment, health, and exercise of the prisoners—their protection from the weather when at labour—the expediency of removing the tread-mill—the appropriation of the apartment occupied thereby—and providing a convenient room for Divine worship on Sundays, and occasional instruction by ministers of religion.

3rdly. The Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to receive any suggestions which may occur to the inspectors as desirable to be imparted to him respecting the dietary of the prisoners—their clothing—the hours of labour—the discipline—and the general economy of the gaol.

KER B. HAMILTON, Lieutenant-Governor.

Carriacou, Grenada,
January 1, 1847.

SIR,

As I had only recently arrived in this Island from Jamaica in July last, I was unable to offer any satisfactory information in the Report then required of me, I therefore avail myself of the present period to submit a brief statistical account of this remote little Island, to accompany the three Tabular Forms marked A, B, C, herewith enclosed. Carriacou, one of the six districts into which the Colony of Grenada is divided, and to each of which a stipendiary magistrate has been appointed, lies about 15 miles to the northward and eastward of the nearest point of Grenada; its extreme length is 7 miles by 2¼ in breadth; the general aspect and formation of the island is mountainous, but opening towards the coast into extensive tracts of arable land of a deep rich loamy texture, gradually declining generally for a mile from the foot of the mountains to the sea. On these glades the sugar estates have been established at different dates, from the year 1812 to 1828; previous to which, cotton was the principal article cultivated, on the higher and more precipitous lands, to the summit of the mountains. Guinea grass abounds spontaneously; and maize and ground provisions are extensively produced. Ten sugar estates were in cultivation within the last five years: four comprising from 500 to 600 acres, and six from 150 to 400 acres in extent, producing, in the aggregate, an annual average export of 800 to 1000 tons of sugar. For the last three years, however, the island has suffered more or less from extreme drought; and on one property, the cultivation of sugar has been recently abandoned in consequence. During the last year, I am informed, there was scarcely the appearance of any vegetation remaining throughout the island, from the above-mentioned calamity, when the crop only amounted to about 90 tons of sugar. Cotton is now cultivated to a very limited extent, and forms, with sugar, rum, and molasses, the only exportable produce of the island. Notwithstanding these disappointments, a liberal and enlightened policy is observable in the general management of the estates, which I have not seen surpassed, if equalled, in Jamaica.

Steam-engines have been erected, and the plough has almost superseded the use of the hoe as an implement for preparing the land for planting on all the estates; besides the introduction of all the available implements of agriculture, at the same time every encouragement is afforded to the labourers by the prompt and regular payment of their wages, and by the establishment of schools for the education of their children, together with an annual supply of medicine for their use. An agricultural society has likewise been established, by which premiums are offered, and periodical ploughing matches are held alternately on the estates, each estate sending its cattle and ploughmen as competitors; at the last meeting, in November, five ploughs started. 14*l.* seems to be the settled price of land by the single acre; but how far this can be taken as the value of land generally, is very doubtful, as I do not believe that any such sum could be realized in the disposal of an estate. Many of the labourers have, since the emancipation, possessed themselves of small portions of land, from half an acre to two acres; but it does not appear that they raise a sufficient quantity of provisions for the consumption of the island, as a constant traffic is kept up with the markets of Grenada for the supply of such articles. The whole population by the last census, taken in the year 1844, amounted to 3,847 souls, including about 200 located at Petite Martinique, a small island lying two miles to the north-east; since which I have every reason for believing the population to be increasing; indeed, the preponderance of baptisms over burials, shown in Table A., fully bears me out in this conclusion. I do not think, however, that more than 20 per cent. of the whole population are employed on the estates; the greater proportion may be classed under the head of young children under 10 years of age (who form a very numerous class), infirm and aged people, artisans, shopkeepers, and those employed as either fishermen or navigating small vessels between the islands. Many of the labourers at this season of the year (being crop time) are in the habit of emigrating to Trinidad, where, in addition to much higher wages, they were each paid a bounty from the public funds.

This has been a source of bitter complaint and annoyance to those having property here, not only as it affects the price of labour, but at the same time offering an encouragement to many, at the caprice of the moment, or on any imagined grievance, to desert their work and family, to lead a wandering and unsettled life for protracted periods. The evil has been, however, in some measure checked lately by the disallowance of the Trinidad Ordinance granting a bounty on inter-colonial emigration.

The system of labour and wages requires a little explanation, in order to arrive at a fair estimate of the price of labour. Seven o'clock, A.M., is the usual hour the labourer commences his work in the field, from which he returns, sometimes before, but seldom after, one o'clock, P.M.; in this interval he is expected, however, to accomplish a certain quantity of work, for

GRENADA.

which each adult receives 8*d.*, with the privilege of cultivating, for his own use or benefit, a small proportion of the estate's land, and a house when he does not possess land of his own. The younger people and children engaged in lighter work during the same period, receive from 6*d.* downwards, according to their capability, besides daily instruction at the estate's school from two till five o'clock; these schools are supported entirely by the liberality of the proprietors. Ample means seem to have been provided for some time past for the education of the rising generation. Besides a public school at Hillsbro', schools are established on more of the large estates; the contrast in this respect, as compared with Jamaica, is very striking. I regret, however, to add, that the children, as they become more advanced in education, withdraw themselves from labour on the estates.

Crime of an aggravated description is almost unknown in this community; a few cases of petty thefts, and assaults of a very trifling nature, are all that have been brought before me for the last six months; at the same time, however, I cannot say anything in praise of either the moral or social habits of the people. Sensual indulgence seems to be the ruling passion and character of the whole race, without regard to the means or consequences, when the impulse of the moment is to be gratified; thus a gaudy article of wearing apparel will be acquired, or a festive meeting at a wedding and at burials indulged in without regard to expense, when in almost every instance (in the latter case) the deceased whose remains they are carousing over, died without medical aid, which might always have been provided for, for the annual subscription of 4*s.*, but which was disregarded, as a contingency unattended with immediate benefit or enjoyment. The places of worship in this island consist of a very old building, where the service of the Established Church is performed twice every Sunday by a resident minister, and a Sunday-school held between the morning and evening service; also a Roman Catholic meeting-house, with a resident priest; and a Wesleyan meeting-house, with a lay reader.

With the exception of a lock-up house, or cage, there is no gaol establishment in this island; offenders sentenced to imprisonment are therefore sent to the gaol in Grenada, 40 miles distant, at considerable expense to the public, and inconvenience to individuals.

As regards the laws of the island, a Petty Debt Act, for the recovery of sums to the extent of say 40*s.* before two magistrates, appears to be most needed; at present, sums under 4*l.* sterling can only be recovered before one of the Judges in St. George's, which is attended with great expense and loss of time, going to and fro, particularly to the inhabitants of this island. The law regulating the obligations between masters and servants, if assimilated as near as possible to that of England, and including all descriptions of servants, excepting newly-arrived immigrants, which should be provided for by a separate Act, as in Jamaica, would be a beneficial measure for all parties. At present, contracts are regulated entirely by implication; as, for example, if a labourer commence work to-day, without any specific agreement to the contrary, it is implied that he has engaged himself for the period of two weeks, and at the expiration of that time, if he works one day over the two weeks, it is again implied that he is under contract for two weeks more; these obligations, I presume, can only be supported by custom, and not by law.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN GURLEY,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

J. G. Garraway, Esq.,
Private Secretary to his Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of the Returns of the Population of the Island of GRENADA and its Dependencies, according to the Census taken on the 3rd June, 1844.

	DISTRICTS OR PARISHES.	NAMES OF COMMISSIONERS.	AGES. Males. Under 10 years.	10 to 16 years.	16 to 50 years.	50 to 60 years.	Above 60 years.	Total.	Females. Under 10 years.	10 to 16 years.	16 to 50 years.	50 to 60 years.	Above 60 years.	Total.	Grand Total.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Europeans, being British subjects.	Natives of this Colony.	Natives of other British West India Colonies.	Africa.	Foreigners.	Total.
1	Town of St. George .	Percy Wm. Justyne .	475	286	902	152	106	1,921	522	319	1,239	188	208	2,476	4,397	118	3,416	342	426	94	4,397
																1 born at sea.					
2	Parish of St. George .	J. M. Aird . . .	565	274	1,055	231	136	2,261	523	229	1,193	215	147	2,307	4,568	49	3,806	123	545	45	4,568
3	,, of St. David .	W. H. Whiteman .	283	118	504	103	81	1,089	318	88	605	120	127	1,258	2,347	23	2,096	38	182	8	2,347
4	,, of St. Andrew	Henry Berkeley . .	619	275	1,232	259	145	2,530	585	274	1,374	273	223	2,729	5,259	74	4,581	177	412	15	5,259
5	,, of St. Patrick	Andrew Munro . .	486	222	1,093	161	85	2,047	473	226	1,175	228	155	2,257	4,304	79	3,840	72	312	1	4,304
6	,, of St. Mark .	Thomas Begg, Sr. .	206	76	369	61	27	739	201	76	410	70	63	828	1,567	7	1,433	20	104	3	1,567
7	,, of St. John .	Hy. Jas. Ross . .	385	160	578	96	93	1,312	340	152	637	106	109	1,344	2,656	32	2,434	40	149	1	2,656
8	Island of Carriacou .	G. A. Mitchell . .	738	235	605	114	141	1,833	622	212	839	128	191	1,992	3,825	22	3,427	216	155	3	3,825
																2 born at sea.					
			3,757	1,646	6,338	1,177	814	13,732	3,592	1,576	7,472	1,328	1,223	15,191	28,923	407	25,033	1,028	2,285	170	28,923

	DISTRICTS OR PARISHES.	NAMES OF COMMISSIONERS.	PROFESSION, TRADE, OR OCCUPATION. Clergy.	Law.	Physic.	Government and Colonial Officers.	Merchants and Shopkeepers.	Clerks.	Artificers.	Resident Proprietors of Estates.	Attorneys of Estates.	Managers and Overseers.	Actual Labourers.	Casual Labourers.	Mariners and Fishermen.	Hucksters.	House Servants.	Seamstresses.	Washerwomen.	Others variously employed.	Children not employed, being of tender years.	Sick and Infirm.	Total.	RELIGION. Church of England.	Church of Scotland.	Church of Rome.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Jews.	Mahometans.	Grand Total.
1	Town of St. George .	Percy Wm. Justyne .	4	2	5	25	79	67	402	..	2	7	1	200	180	167	449	533	362	764	1,097	51	4,397	2,026	58	1,734	574	2	3	4,397
2	Parish of St. George	J. M. Aird . . .	..	1	..	11	3	8	255	13	..	35	1,080	1,194	31	19	144	207	26	323	1,019	199	4,568	621	36	3,262	649	..	..	4,568
3	,, of St. David .	W. H. Whiteman .	..	..	2	4	3	1	155	11	2	21	630	262	3	5	55	140	11	281	615	146	2,347	209	12	2,124	2	..	..	2,347
4	,, of St. Andrew	Henry Berkeley . .	2	..	1	2	4	11	296	4	8	45	1,625	288	35	22	75	178	34	1,483	1,938	208	5,259	1,289	36	3,920	13	..	1	5,259
5	,, of St. Patrick	Andrew Munro . .	1	..	3	4	24	6	241	1	5	53	1,930	46	23	44	153	105	52	482	959	172	4,304	1,080	162	3,052	10	..	..	4,304
6	,, of St. Mark .	Thomas Begg, Sr. .	..	..	..	1	2	1	90	..	..	23	698	..	11	31	40	96	127	5	436	6	1,567	253	5	1,296	13	..	..	1,567
7	,, of St. John .	Hy. Jas. Ross . .	3	1	3	3	5	3	130	10	..	27	..	1,445	12	11	68	105	35	157	606	32	2,656	563	8	2,084	1	..	..	2,656
8	Island of Carriacou .	G. A. Mitchell . .	2	..	2	5	6	2	142	203	1	19	799	..	94	1	52	45	14	1,003	1,373	62	3,825	2,759	11	1,053	2	..	..	3,825
			12	4	16	55	126	99	1,711	242	18	230	6,763	3,435	389	300	1,036	1,409	661	4,498	5,043	876	28,923	8,800	328	18,525	1,264	2	4	28,923

Population of Grenada and its Dependencies . .	28,923
Prisoners confined in St. George's Gaol	20
Crews of Vessels belonging to the Colony . . .	59
Crews of Vessels not belonging to the Colony . .	244
Total Population . . .	29,246

PERCY WM. JUSTYNE,
Government Secretary.

GRENADA.

No. 10.

(No. 29.) No. 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Reid.

Sir, Downing-street, August 28, 1847.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1846, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor's annual report.

I request you to convey to Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton my acknowledgments for the attention which he has given to the subjects noticed in this report.

With reference to his remark that the educational system of the Colony should undergo a thorough revision, and also to his observations on the limited extent to which a knowledge of the English language prevails, I have to express the strong sense which I entertain of the importance of spreading the knowledge and use of the English language by every practicable means through every class of the population: and I request you to communicate to Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton the sentiments which you have expressed in your present dispatch in regard to the efficacy of infant schools. In promoting this object in St. Lucia, I apprehend that they could be not less so in Grenada, if they could be so established, and placed under such a system of inspection as to obviate any suspicion of their being used for the purpose of making proselytes from the Roman Catholic religion.

With reference to the wish expressed by Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton that a portion of the Africans liberated from slave ships should be sent to Grenada, I have to state that it has been thought right to send those Africans to the colonies in which they will obtain the highest remuneration for their labour.

I regard as very important, and I recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor to promote by every means in his power the object of the application which he states to have been made to the Legislature by some of the inhabitants for the erection of public hospitals in each parish or populous district.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Governor Reid, (Signed) GREY.
&c. &c.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 11.

(No. 28.) No. 11.

Enclosure in Governor Reid's Despatch to Earl Grey, No. 17.
May 18, 1847.

Government House, Tobago,
April 2, 1847.

Sir,

I have the honour, herewith enclosed, to forward to your Excellency my annual Report for the year 1846.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency The Governor-in-Chief, (Signed) L. GRÆME,
Barbados. Lieutenant-Governor.

Annual Report to accompany the Blue Book for the year 1846.

Revenue and Expenditure.

In consequence of a dispute originating in a refusal on the part of the Chief Justice of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, to give up certain documents for the use of the House of Assembly, a stop was put early in the session to public business, and no supplies were granted for the service of the year 1846; neither was any appropriation made of the monies accumulating in the Treasury arising out of the permanent taxation of the country; no comparative statement can therefore be made, of the receipts and disbursements of this year and that of the preceding one, nor indeed is it necessary for any useful practical purposes, to enter into such a calculation, as the receipts under our import and tonnage dues, (which are permanent Bills) afford the readiest and best means of testing the mercantile and general prosperity of the colony.

There is a small increase amounting to 234*l.*, on the import duties, and a deficiency of 117*l.* on the tonnage dues, as compared with the year 1845; but the reduction under the latter head, is easily accounted for, by the unpromising appearance of the crop in May, which I believe induced the withdrawal of one or

two vessels from the Trade; but I am happy to report that these unfavourable anticipations have proved groundless, and there is now every probability of a demand for increased tonnage, to carry our produce now in course of manufacture to market, which, it is estimated, at the lowest computation, will exceed the shipments of 1846 by 1000 hogsheads of sugar, besides the usual proportion of rum and molasses.

Fees to Public Officers.

Were an equitable settlement of the points contested under this head, effected, it would greatly contribute to the harmony of the colony, for, whether the grievances complained of be just or not, real, or imaginary, the question ought for the sake of the peace of the community, to be adjusted and brought to a close.

I am still of opinion, that a general docket should be struck, and the fees assimilated as nearly as may be, throughout the windward Island Government; but the accomplishment of this is no easy matter. I have now before me official returns of the tables of fees charged in Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, and St. Lucia, all of which vary very considerably; besides, some of the officers receive salaries, others do not, hence to equalise the charges with due regard to vested rights, the salaries as well as the fees of the departments, should be placed upon the same footing; upon comparing these tables, I find that, in the aggregate, the fees charged in Tobago are less than those demanded in the other islands, with the exception of Barbados, where the salaries are much larger.

Many of the fees as now charged, are of very ancient standing, and in several cases the authority for their payment rests solely on long established custom. The charges upon shipping and those on letters of administration in the ordinary Court both require revision; by the present arrangement the fees demanded at the Secretary's office upon the entry of a vessel of 50 tons, is equal to that charged upon a ship of 500 tons burden; this ought not to be, it is unjust upon principle, and injurious to inter-colonial trade. In like manner, the fees in the Ordinary Court are the same, whether the effects be of the value of 1*l.* or of 1000*l.* In both cases the charges ought to be proportioned to the tonnage of the vessel, and to the value of the estate, for which administration is taken out.

Public Works.

Besides the tank now in course of building for the use of the inhabitants of Scarborough, the repairs, or more properly speaking, the annual reconstruction of the roads, are the only works of a public kind in progress. These repairs are made under an "Act" of the island, which obliges all males between the ages of 18 and 60, to labour when called upon by the waywardens for eightpence sterling of daily pay. After the autumnal rains (which completely cut up and destroy the roads), the work commences, and the highways are repaired from the deposits in the ditches. This preliminary operation is generally well executed, but unfortunately, no further steps are taken to make them durable, and after the next heavy rains, the roads soon become almost impassable. It is worthy of remark, that although the Home Government refused to permit females to come within the compulsory operation of the "Road Bill," the greater part of the work is performed by women, who are sent by their husbands, or readily offer themselves as substitutes for other parties, at a small advance on the current rate of agricultural wages.

I have obtained and herewith annex a Return, showing the expenditure for road-making in this colony for the last six years, amounting to 3773*l.* sterling, being an average cost of 600*l.* per annum.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE for the Repairs of the Highways, for the Years 1841, 42, 1843, 44, 45, 46.

Year.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
1841–42 . . .	1068	4	6
1843	616	5	2
1844	874	3	11
1845	614	1	5
1846	600	7	0
Total . .	3773	2	0

TOBAGO.

This is a large outlay of money not very judiciously expended; no permanent improvement having resulted from it. In these colonies the paucity of labour undoubtedly obstructs the rapid formation of roads, but there is nothing to prevent the waywardens being authorised to macadamize one mile of road annually in each district; by this means in the course of a few years, the island would gradually, and without any perceptible drain upon the treasury, become encircled by good permanent roads, and thus ultimately effect a large annual saving to the public.

I must not omit to enumerate, under the head of Public Works, the erection of a light-house, expressly built by the colony to guide the mail steamers into Scarborough, at a cost of 1000*l.* sterling, and at an annual expense of 100*l.* This was a very spirited undertaking, and the work has been creditably performed. I regret, however, to add that the royal mail steamers do not call at Scarborough, as the colonists were led to expect, but at Courland Bay, on the other side of the island, at a very inconvenient landing-place, not unaccompanied by danger, as two of the Company's vessels have very recently grounded at the entrance of that harbour. A petition has been forwarded to the Admiralty on this subject, which I trust may meet with the attention it deserves.

Education.

I am sorry to say that I cannot conscientiously report favourably of all the schools. Some certainly have improved, but others have retrograded, and two or three have closed altogether, since my last report. I must not, however, attribute blame to individuals, when so many causes have tended to the injury of these establishments. At the fall of last year, the fever of the country carried three out of five clergymen of the Established Church, within the space of six months, to a premature grave; and the absence of a fourth at this moment, for the benefit of his health, has no doubt had a prejudicial effect upon the schools under their supervision. Moreover, the extreme difficulty of selecting proper persons in this colony, to act as schoolmasters, is a serious obstacle to contend with. It would have been well had normal schools been founded ten years ago in each diocese in the West Indies, for the instruction of young men of Creole birth to fill the situation of teachers. To obtain them from England is out of the question; for besides the large salaries demanded, persons of European birth are unable, from the effects of the climate, to perform their duties with regularity. From the Moravian Normal School in Antigua we have received two young men of colour connected with the missions here, who have given much satisfaction; and until the Church of England adopts the same expedient for training native teachers, I fear there is but little reason to expect any considerable improvement in the seminaries in connection with that establishment in this colony.

The Moravians commence by a system of discipline which, without fatiguing either the mind or the body, is well suited to children of the most tender age. The more advanced are (as a part of their education) required to sweep the school-rooms, trim the walks and ornament the grounds within the confines of the mission establishment, plant and weed Guinea grass, raise Indian corn, bananas, and other fruits and vegetables. To the elder pupils are assigned small plots of land, for their own exclusive benefit; and I am informed that in many cases the boys are not unfrequently at work in their gardens early and late. By such means as these industrial habits are implanted, and obedience and regularity inculcated imperceptibly on the minds of the rising generation —elements of instruction almost as necessary to the future comfort and happiness of the labouring classes as the intellectual acquirements of reading and writing.

For Lord Grey's Circular Despatch of the 26th January, 1847, *vide* Correspondence respecting the West Indies, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 27 April, 1847, No. 325, p. 2.

This system is only an humble imitation of that recommended in the Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of the 26th of January, and appears to me to be founded upon the principles of the industrial schools at Hofyl, in Switzerland; but it has the advantage of extreme simplicity and cheapness, and may be immediately applied to all schools in the rural districts of this island.

Since my last Report, the Legislature have voted 15*l.* (without reference to religious persuasion) to each of the schools in the island, and the parents are at length, although reluctantly, coming forward to pay for the education of their children.

A general complaint was made to me by the clergy of the disinclination of

the peasantry to contribute the smallest sum in aid of instruction, and when payment was insisted upon, that the children were immediately removed and placed at other establishments, where, from an impolitic emulation amongst the different religious persuasions to swell the number of their pupils, admission was readily obtained. To remedy this, I suggested that a uniform charge should be made and rigidly enforced, strengthened by an understanding that any child discharged from school for non-payment would not be re-admitted or received into other academies until payment were made.

This has been acted upon, as far as circumstances will permit, in good faith by the Moravians and Wesleyans, with the happiest results; and upon my last visit to the principal Moravian establishment, I found that a sum of 20*l.* had been received and paid in advance for the current quarter, and what is still better, the attendance of the children had become more regular, no doubt the result of a desire on the part of the parents that the children should reap the full value of the money expended upon their education.

I regret to hear that, by a regulation of the parent Wesleyan Society, the missions here are required to gather contributions in aid of other foreign missions; but considering the difficulty we have to induce the parents to pay for the education of their own children, I think it highly impolitic to solicit subscriptions from our Negro population until this object be fully accomplished, and I hope the parent Society may not press for contributions until our own establishments are completed, as it may tend to influence the Legislature when making their next annual appropriation for scholastic purposes.

Agriculture.

The soil in the level lands of several of our districts is a stiff tenacious yellow clay, upon an under stratum of marl or rotten rock, the former containing a large proportion of lime. From the impervious nature of the upper soil, the water rests upon it, to the great injury of the canes, in the wet as well as the dry season, in which latter it becomes as hard as a brick. Ploughing and liming have been resorted to, with but partial success. At length thorough draining has been introduced, and for the first time, after a long residence in the West Indies, I have had the gratification of seeing the process of wedge draining pursued in the same manner and with the same implements as those used in England. This is worthy of note, in as much as it proves that the prejudices of the Negro against the use of the spade, wheel-barrow, &c., are now yielding to a more civilized system of tillage.

An ingenious method has also been contrived by Mr. Scott, of Golden Grove, to supply the place of stones, by the substitution of the bamboo, to fill in his covered drains. For this purpose a selection is made of the stems or branches of this tree, of the thickness of a man's arm, cut into lengths of about four feet, and sharpened at one end, so as to fit into each other. An augur is then inserted into the hollow, to open a free communication through the compartments into which, at each joint, this tree is divided. These pipes are then laid in the drains, covered with the leaves of the tree, over which the soil is thrown in the usual manner.

It is calculated that if the bamboo be cut at the proper time of the moon, when the sap is down, it will last for several years under ground. This, however, is an experiment not sufficiently tested, but it evinces a laudable desire on the part of the gentry to apply the resources of the country to agricultural improvements.

At a recent meeting of the Agricultural Society, doubts were expressed as to the number of children brought up to agricultural or other useful occupations since the commencement of the apprenticeship in 1834, and a desire was also expressed to ascertain whether the "immigrants," lately introduced at a cost of 2000*l.* sterling (now that their contracts had expired), continued to work in the island.

By the exertions of the stipendiary magistrates I am able to append to this report a return, showing that no less than 616 boys and girls under the age of eighteen years, and who consequently were declared free by the act of 1834, are now engaged exclusively in plantation work; and that out of the 600 immigrants introduced into the colony in the years 1845 and 6, 461 are now under engagements as daily labourers; the remainder could not be traced, but no doubt many are settled in the free villages.

TOBAGO.

With these returns I send another, furnished to me by the Moravians, (who never lose sight of their pupils,) distinguishing the occupations to which the children have betaken themselves, after quitting school.

Taking into consideration the smallness of our population (13,000), I view these statements to be highly satisfactory, as affording authentic information that the dislike of the Negro to field labour is rapidly on the decline.

Imports and Exports.

The estimated value of goods entered at the Customs this year amounted to 63,282*l.*; the previous year the valuation was 66,536*l.*; shewing a decrease on imports of 3,254*l.*, or a loss of 162*l.* to the revenue under the five per cent. duty tax.

With this report I forward an official document from the Customs, of the declared value of two cargoes entered inwards, and exhibiting also the current market price of the articles as sold in Tobago.

From these returns it would appear either that our import law is extremely faulty, or that an enormous profit is made on the sale of the goods, by the super-cargo, or by the merchants in the island. Lumber, which is valued for the import duty at 1*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* sterling, is sold by retail at 7*l.* per 1000 feet: and shingles, entered at 4*s.* 2*d.*, are sold at from 1*l.* to 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per 1000. This is a large per centage on the first cost.

General Observations.

The peasantry are fast clearing the forest lands, and establishing settlements along the sea-coast, and extending cultivation into the interior.

Vide Governor Sir C. E. Grey's Despatch, 7th March, 1846; Blue Book Reports presented by Command, July, 1846: page 51.

I have hitherto regarded the occupancy of small allotments of land, whether by lessees or in fee simple, as the first step to raise among the Negro population a middle or yeomanry class; but in the report published last year I perceive that when forwarding my annual returns to the Colonial-office, the late Governor-in-Chief took an unfavourable view of the cottage system, on the ground that, being possessed of neither capital nor of credit, the labourer could not possibly bring his land under proper cultivation, and hence a vitiated proprietary would be created in the colony. But, surely, an indifferent cultivation is better than none at all; and as far as the argument applies to Tobago, where the extensive forests and waste lands are rapidly giving way (by the sole industry of the peasantry) to the advances of cultivation, I must differ in the conclusion at which his Excellency has arrived.

It would be difficult, I imagine, to induce any considerable capitalist, at the present time, to clear land and establish a new set of sugar works in the West Indies; and unless the labour is to be performed by the small proprietors of three or four acres, I see no hope whatever of our forests yielding to improvements of any kind.

In my evening rides beyond the confines of sugar cultivation, I observe with interest and much pleasure the erection of tenements surrounded by small clearings, and long after sunset I hear the sound of the axe resounding in the distance amongst the hills.

We have a Bill now under the consideration of her Majesty for an extension of the franchise, which, if passed into law, in a very few years, will bring within reach of these small proprietors and lessees the right to vote at elections; and which (provided the qualification be not made too low) may serve as a stimulant to their industrial habits, and remove the evils apprehended, perhaps justly, by Sir Charles Grey.

Tobago, with some disadvantages, enjoys several superiorities which Barbados and the more northerly islands do not possess. In the first place, we are on the outer boundary line of hurricanes, are seldom or ever affected by earthquakes, and the seasons are more equal, and the rains more plentiful, than is generally the case elsewhere. Our forests also, although (unlike those of other colonies within the tropics,) abounding in singing birds of beautiful plumage, and insects of all kinds, are exempt from the monkey tribe, whose depredations are much dreaded by the planter; but what is still more singular, that destructive animal, the cane rat, is almost entirely unknown.

It is an error to suppose that in Tobago we give a high rate of wages. The price of field labour varies from 6*d.* to 1*s.* per diem, according to age, for

attached Negros, that is, for such as have houses and grounds; but 1*s.* 4*d.* is demanded on Saturdays, which is still, I regret to observe, considered as a day of exclusive freedom, and of exemption from estate's employ. It may not here be out of place to give a striking evidence of the economy, laying other considerations aside, of free over compulsory labour. The charge in slavery for preparing and opening an acre of land in this island, by the employment of a task gang, was 8*l.* sterling. The same amount of work was performed very recently for 1*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, upon a Saturday too, when the people, as stated above, demand the higher rate of wages. The gang consisted of twenty-six men and women, with four water carriers: each person opened 100 four-feet cane holes, which very nearly cover the surface of an acre of ground.

In drawing up this report I have as much as possible avoided giving expression to my own opinions and conclusions, confining myself to a simple statement of facts and of events as they pass within my observation, and leaving to more competent judges the duty of tracing, from those facts, the effects which freedom has produced in this colony upon the labouring population, and of estimating the true position and future prospects of agriculture and commerce, as connected with those results; but were I permitted to write with perfect freedom, I would venture to say, that the constant annual agitation in Parliament, for many years past, of the sugar duties, has done much injury to, and has greatly retarded and checked permanent improvements in these colonies. Even the sugar works on many estates have fallen into decay from the fear of the proprietor to expend capital in the production of an article so liable by fiscal changes to a sudden depression in price: and although it may be said that this uncertainty is now at rest, yet in practice I find the same objection to the sliding scale of protection duties, and an equal unwillingness to risk any considerable outlay of money—an unwillingness that will exist until it can be clearly ascertained how far a complete equalization of duties will affect the sugar market. It is true great exertions are being made to take advantage of the present high prices, and of the few remaining years of protection; but it is only a feverish excitement to reap the benefit of the differential duty while it lasts, and does not spring from a healthy and vigorous pulsation of political economy; and I feel assured that had the protection been reduced at once to 4*s.* per cwt., for a fixed term, say of five years, it would have given much more general satisfaction; and by enabling the planter more clearly to see his way, would have greatly tended to remove those evils, which there is too much reason to apprehend will increase as the period approaches for the admission, upon equal terms, of foreign with British plantation produce.

L. GRÆME, Lieutenant-Governor.

Government House, March 19, 1847.

TOBAGO.

RETURN of NATIVE LABOURERS under the age of Eighteen Years now at Plantation Work in the Island of TOBAGO; and also a Return of the Number of IMMIGRANTS employed upon each Estate, in the same capacity.

Name of Estate.	Number of Creoles under the Age of 18 Years, on the Pay List.			Number of Immigrants on the Pay List.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
WINDWARD DISTRICT.						
Goldsborough	4	4	8	..	..	16
The Sine	4	1	5	..	..	13
Unity	3	1	4	..	..	5
Pembroke	..	..	..	..	..	15
Glamorgan	21	..	21	..	..	11
Richmond	12	9	21	..	..	17
Belle Garden	3	2	5	..	..	5
Kendal Place	2	2	4	..	..	10
Invera and Argyle	..	..	..	..	..	19
Roxburgh	3	..	3	..	..	23
Betey's Hope	6	..	6	..	..	8
King's Bay	5	1	6	..	..	5
Merchiston	4	..	4	..	..	..
Trois Rivieres	2	1	3	..	..	4
Spey Side	13	4	17	..	..	..
Charlotteville	..	..	..	..	..	2
Telescope	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hermitage	6	1	7	..	..	..
Total	88	26	114	..	..	153
LEEWARD DISTRICT.						
Adventure	3	..	3	3	..	3
Amity Hope	6	4	10	1	..	1
Amos Vale	4	1	5	..	..	..
Anchens Keoch	11	8	19	6	..	6
Bonaccord	4	4	8	13	1	14
Buccoo	11	6	17	11	1	12
Burley Castle and Spring Garden	8	4	12	8	..	8
Combee	..	..	..	7	..	7
Courland	10	6	16	17	3	20
Culloden	6	3	9	2	..	2
Golden Grove Cove and Friendship	1	1	2	34	7	41
Franklyns	4	2	6	2	..	2
Golden Lane	9	2	11	..	..	..
Grafton	5	1	6	3	..	3
Hampden	..	1	1	6	..	6
Kilgwyn	1	5	6	1	..	1
Les Coleaux	6	2	8	..	..	..
Lower Quarter	5	5	10	..	..	..
Lowlands	4	1	5	..	..	..
Mary's Hill	2	5	7	7	..	7
Mount Irvine	2	7	9	13	1	14
New Grange	4	5	9	7	..	7
Old Grange	6	6	12	7	1	8
Orange Hill	5	2	7	5	..	5
Orange Valley	4	1	5	3	..	3
Prospect	3	3	6	23	2	25
Riseland	4	8	12	..	..	..
Shirvan	5	5	10	1	2	3
Smithfield	1	..	1	..	..	..
Whim	5	9	14	1	1	2
Total	139	107	246	181	19	200

Return of Native Labourers, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Number of Creoles under the Age of 18 Years, on the Pay List.			Number of Immigrants on the Pay List.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
MIDDLE DISTRICT.						
Adelphi	3	1	4	..	..	..
Bacolet	2	2	4	9	..	9
Belmont	3	1	4	10	..	10
Calder Hall	5	..	5	..	..	..
Concordia	3	4	7	..	..	..
Caadley	2	3	5	10	..	10
Dunvegan	2	3	5	2	..	2
Englishman's Bay	4	4	8	22	..	22
Friendsfield	9	..	9	12	..	12
Green Hill	4	3	7	..	..	..
Highlands	2	2	4	1	..	1
Hope	9	8	17	3	..	3
Indian Walk	9	4	13	..	..	..
Mount Dillon	4	1	5	..	..	..
Mount Pelier	6	4	10	6	1	7
Mount St. George	3	1	4	..	..	..
Nutmeg Grove	6	6	12	1	..	1
Providence	3	1	4	3	..	3
Runnimede	9	4	13	6	1	7
Studley Park	4	4	8	11	..	11
Woodlands	4	4	8	10	..	10
Total	96	60	156	106	2	108

GRAND TOTAL.

Name of District.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Windward	88	26	114	..	..	153
Leeward	139	107	246	181	19	200
Middle	96	60	156	106	2	108
Grand Total	323	293	616	287	21	461

WILLIAM B. BROOKE,
Acting Private Secretary.

No. 1.

A RETURN of the Children that left the Montgomery Day School, between 1839 and 1846, with their Occupations, as far as can be ascertained.

No. 2.

A similar RETURN of the Mount Moriah School, between August, 1842, and December, 1846.

Year.	1 Agricul-ture.		2 Washers Teachers, &c.		3 Occupation not Specified.		4 Removed to a Distance.		5 To House Service.		6 To other Schools.		7 In a state of Sickness.		8 Total Dismissed.		Remarks of Schoolmaster.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	
1839	2	5	2	..	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	9	. . .
1840																	During these 3 years the respective dates of dismission are not given in the Register.
1841	7	8	2	3	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	13	13	
1842																	
1843	..	1	1	..	2	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	In the Register are many names of children who are not now in our school, and whom we are at present unable to trace, probably they left in the years 1843 or 1844, and should be placed in column, No. 6.
1844	3	9	6	1	2	..	3	..	1	4	9	16	..	1	24	31	
1845	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	
1846	3	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	4	7	
Total	17	24	12	4	8	7	7	3	2	7	9	16	..	3	55	64	

TOBAGO.

MOUNT MORIAH, (No. 2.)

Year.	1 Agriculture.		2 Washers, Teachers, &c.		3 Occupation not specified.		4 Removed to a Distance.		5 To House Service.		6 To other Schools.		7 In a State of Sickness.		8 Total Dismissed.	
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
From Aug. 1842 to Dec. 1846	17	15	9	7	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	28	24
Total . .	17	15	9	7	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	28	25

GRAND TOTAL of Dismissed from both Schools.

Name of School.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
Montgomery. . .	17	24	12	4	8	7	7	3	2	7	9	16	..	3	55	64
Mount Moriah . .	17	15	9	7	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	28	25
Grand Total . .	34	39	21	11	8	7	7	3	4	9	9	16	..	3	83	89

(Signed) WILLIAM B. BROOKE,
Acting Private Secretary.

A RETURN of the Declared Value of the Cargo of the Brig "Gauntlet," M'Gregor, Master, from Glasgow.

Importers, James F. Jamieson, and Angus Melville, Esqs.

	Declared Gross Value. £. s. d.	Declared Reduced Value. £. s. d.	Retail Prices.
British Goods, consisting of Bricks, Tiles, Coals, Lime, Hats, Leather, Manufactures, Cottons, Hardware, Cutlery, &c.	2,795 5 2	. .	. .
FOREIGN GOODS, viz.:—			
Nutmegs, 29 lbs.	5 13 0	. .	. .
Coffee, 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 23 lbs. . . .	19 6 0	0 0 6	1s. per lb.
Tea, 3 1 23 . . .	27 8 2	0 1 5	3s. to 6s. per lb.
Pitch, 1 barrel	1 1 8	. .	. .
Rice, 5 cwt. 3 qrs. 5 lbs. . . .	9 12 4	0 0 3½	6d. per lb.
Bread, 1 hhd. and 40 barrels . . .	35 5 8	. .	. .
Spanish Wine, 312 gals.	71 10 0	. .	. .
Madeira ditto, 42 gals.	15 8 0	. .	. .
Portugal ditto, 83 ditto	18 0 0	. .	. .
French ditto, 1 hhd. containing 45 galls. .	12 10 0	. .	. .
Ditto in glass, 15⅝ galls.. . . .	10 17 6	. .	. .
Refined Sugar, 5 cwt. 12 lbs. . . .	10 0 0	0 0 4	9d. per lb.
Raisins, 2 cwts. 13 lbs.	4 2 6	. .	. .
Currants, 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 12 lbs. . . .	4 1 2	. .	. .
Unmanufactured Tobacco, 14 cwt. . .	31 10 6	. .	. .
Cassia Ligna, 1 cwt. 20 lbs. . . .	3 10 9	. .	. .
Pepper, 1 cwt. 23 lbs.	1 12 0	. .	. .
French Vinegar, 47 galls.	3 10 8	. .	. .
Brandy, 228 galls.	53 7 6	0 4 7½	11s. per gallon.
Geneva, 103 ditto	15 18 2	0 3 1	6s. to 8s. 4d. pr gall.
Sago, 1 cwt. 1 qr.	2 18 0	. .	.
Total . . . £	3,152 8 9	. .	. .

Certified as to the Declared Value,

J. COMISSING,
Collector.

TOBAGO.

A RETURN of the Declared Value of the Cargo of the Brig "Milton," Crosby, Master and Importer, from Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

	Declared Gross Value.	Declared Reduced Value.	Retail Prices.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
40,000 ft. W. P. Lumber . .	70 16 8	1 15 6 pr 1000 ft.	7 0 0 pr 1000 ft.
90,000 Shingles	18 15 0	0 4 2 pr 1000	1 0 0 to 1 13 4 pr 1000
47 barrels Mackerel . . .	34 5 5	0 14 3 pr bl.	1 5 0 pr bl.
42 casks Dried Codfish, 168 qlts. .	59 18 0	0 7 2 pr qlt.	0 16 8 pr qlt.
40 boxes ditto, ditto . . .	16 13 4	. .	. .
2 barrels Scale-fish, 8 qlts. . .	1 5 4	.	. .
31 ditto Herrings	11 12 6	. .	. .
24 ditto Potatoes, and 75 bushels (loose)	10 0 0	. -	. .
8 hampers Potatoes . . .	0 10 0	. .	. .
Total . . £	223 16 3	. .	. .

Certified as to the Declared Value,

J. COMISSING,
Collector.

(No. 32.) No. 12. No. 12.

ENCLOSURE in Governor REID'S DESPATCH to Earl GREY, No. 17. May 8, 1847.

Government House, Tobago,
April 15, 1847.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Annual Report of the Inspector of Gaols, which I did not receive until too late to be included in my own Annual Report, but as this Return embraces most important matter of statistical information, I forward it with the least possible delay, as an appendix to my Despatch No. 28, of the 2nd instant.

It is extremely gratifying to find that, notwithstanding our limited prison accommodations, every possible attention has been paid to the dietary, the classification, and especially to the personal cleanliness of the prisoners, circumstances to which the Grand Jury, in their presentment (herewith enclosed), have adverted with encomium on the Provost Marshal, under whose superintendence the gaol and prisoners are placed.

I do not, however, admit that the prisoners are properly classified: because it is perfectly impossible, in so confined a space, to keep distinct and separate from communication with each other, thirty persons, which, I am sorry to say, is nearly the daily average number of inmates in the gaol of Scarborough.

I have before drawn attention to this circumstance, the evil of which is augmented every session by additional sentences of transportation. In my address upon opening the first session of the legislature last year, I brought the subject to its notice, and recommended that an abandoned gaol at Plymouth might be repaired, to which it was my intention to have sent all persons sentenced to transportation, or convicted of offences of an aggravated nature; but the House of Assembly declined to entertain the question; and the colonial government will, bye and bye be compelled, in consequence of the crowded state of the gaol, to close the door against further commitments.

I cannot, however, pass over in silence, the great increase in crime exhibited by the inspector's comparative statement of the last four years, under the heads of felonies, petty thefts, and misdemeanours; and I should be doing injustice to the labouring population of this colony, were I not to offer some explanation to relieve the character of our native peasantry and operative classes, from the reproach of increasing demoralization which otherwise might attach to them. In the first place, I have to observe, that "misdemeanour" is a misnomer, as, under this head, are included all summary convictions for petty assaults, abusive language, and prædial offences, such as breaches of contract, and disobedience of orders, offences which, although very properly punishable, cannot be considered as affecting the moral conduct of the parties. In the next place, more than a third of the offenders brought before the criminal courts last year were strangers introduced into Tobago under a regulation for the encouragement of immigration; and of 31 committed for felonies in the year 1846, not less than 16 were

TOBAGO.

creoles of a neighbouring island; and at the sessions just terminated, out of 12 sent up for trial, 9 were Barbadians.

One of the many evils attendant upon inter-colonial immigration, is the encouragement given to the idle and dissolute to wander from island to island, where, being unknown to the police, they can commit depredations with less risk of detection; and it is a fortunate circumstance that this system has at length been put an end to, by the prohibition of bounties for immigration purposes being paid out of the colonial treasury.

I have nothing further to remark than that no instance of "flogging" has taken place since November last, when I issued fresh instructions in respect to that punishment.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency the Governor in Chief, Barbados. (Signed) L. GRÆME, Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 12.

SIR, Tobago, April 5, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the gaol in Scarborough (now th only one in use in this island) has been kept clean, and as well ventilated as its indifferent site will permit, and the prisoners during the year 1846, have been free from any serious sickness.

The issue of provisions, comprising rice, salt-fish, flour, and vegetables, has been regular, and the food wholesome, and delivered, so far as pessible, agreeably to the regulations of the gaol.

When necessary, the medical attendant has ordered half a pound of fresh meat, and a wine-glass of spirits per diem, in lieu of salt provisions, and also, when necessary, the patients are bathed in sea-water.

Personal cleanliness has been particularly attended to, and the medical officer constantly at hand. The invalids are placed in a building by themselves, being apartments erected for the purpose under the rooms of the turnkey.

The classification is as strictly attended to as the accommodation will afford. The untried and the convicted are separated, and those confined for misdemeanours are separated from those committed for a higher crime. The debtors have apartments to themselves, and the females are placed in rooms by themselves.

The clergyman of the Established Church occasionally attends the gaol, and reads ar exhortation and prayers, but as there is no stipend, or regularly constituted chaplain to the gaol I am sorry to observe that there is no claim upon the rector for Scarborough to perform the necessary functions. The prisoners have no other instruction.

The average number of prisoners in Scarborough Gaol the past year (1846), per month, may be taken at 29, including all description of offences, and the average expense of feeding per month, 35*l*.

The greatest number of prisoners in gaol at any one time in 1846, was on the 16th of April, when there were 48 within the walls, and the greatest number of prisoners sleeping in one apartment, has been 8.

The number of punishments in 1846 for breaches of prison discipline was 24, viz.:—

6 men flogged.
12 ditto, solitary confinement.
6 women, ditto.

Two prisoners died within the gaol in 1846, and a coroner's inquest was held on the bodies. Thomas Clarke, who was committed for trial on charge of felony, died "by the visitation of God," the 14th July. And Alick Jordaine, a convict, guilty of arson, died also "by the visitation of God," the 2nd of October.

Many repairs are required in the gaol, the roof of the buildings not being painted, require constant attention.

The oven in the kitchen does not bake well, and the flooring to the rooms in the debtors' apartments are in an indifferent state.

I have, &c.,

(True Copy.)
WILLIAM B. BROOKE,
Acting Private Secretary.

(Signed) KAYE DOWLAND,
Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, and Inspector of Gaols.

Population by Census of June, 1844:—

Males . . . . 6,152 } 13,208.
Females . . . . 7,056 }

A RETURN of the NUMBER of COMMITMENTS to the Gaol of SCARBOROUGH during the Years 1842, 43, 44, 45, and 1846, inclusive.

Nature of Offence.	1842			1843			1844			1845			1846			Grand Total in 5 Years.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Trial for Felony .	16	1	17	7	1	8	7	2	9	11	1	12	28	3	31	69	8	77
Petty theft . . .	40	11	51	19	8	27	28	4	32	39	8	47	54	12	66	180	43	223
*Misdemeanour .	102	17	119	62	17	79	92	36	128	149	29	178	169	23	192	574	122	696
Debt	23	2	25	19	2	21	23	2	25	11	..	11	28	1	29	104	7	111
Total . .	181	31	212	107	28	135	150	44	194	210	38	248	279	39	318	927	180	1,107

* 1842. Under the head of misdemeanour is included 30 soldiers; since that year soldiers have not been committed to Scarborough Gaol, but are punished within the garrison.

Remark.—During the period of five years, one man, an African soldier of H. M. 1st W. I. Regiment, suffered the extreme penalty of the law in 1846.

(A true Copy.)
WILLIAM J. BROOKE,
Private Secretary.

(Signed) KAYE DOWLAND,
Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, and
Inspector of Gaols.

THE NUMBER of PRISONERS confined in the GAOL of SCARBOROUGH, January 1, 1847.

Nature of Offence.	Confined in Gaol, Jan. 1, 1847.		
	M.	F.	Total.
Convicts	16	..	16
For trial on charge of felony . .	7	..	7
Petty theft	..	2	2
Misdemeanors	6	1	7
Debts	..	1	1
Total	29	4	33

(A true Copy)
WILLIAM J. BROOKE,
Private Secretary.

(Signed) KAYE DOWLAND,
Stipendary Justice of the Peace, and
Inspector of Gaols.

SIR,

Marshal's Office, April 16, 1847.

WITH reference to the accompanying return of Mr. Inspector Dowland, I beg leave to inform your Excellency, that on comparing it with the entries in the gaol books, I find that between the 1st of August and the 31st of December, 1845, there were 154 prisoners committed, of which 68 were immigrants.

During the past year, out of 318 prisoners, the whole number committed, there were 157 immigrants, principally natives of Barbados.

I cannot carry the return back to an earlier period than August 1845, with accuracy, but would further add, that of 31 committed for felony in 1846, 15 were immigrants from Barbados and 16 natives of Tobago.

I have, &c.,
CHARLES J. LE PLASTRIER,
Provost Marshal General.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor,
&c., &c., &c.

EXTRACT.

WE, the Grand Inquest of the Colony, beg leave to present that we have visited the common gaol in Scarborough, and have found every department connected with it in a very clean and wholesome condition; and considering the crowded state in which it has been for many months, reflects the highest credit on its superintendents.

Grand Jury Room, April 7, 1847. (Signed) ALEX. GAIRDNER, Foreman.

Certified a true Copy,
(Signed) JOHN THORNTON, Clerk of the Crown.

TOBAGO.

No. 13.

(No. 21.) No. 13.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Reid.

Sir, Downing-street, August 20, 1847.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Blue Book of Tobago for the year 1846, accompanied by the Lieut.-Governor's annual Report.

This Report appears to have been drawn up with care, and the prospect which it holds out of progress and improvement is on the whole encouraging.

I have read with peculiar satisfaction the account given of the industrial schools of the Moravians. Although the system adopted in those schools is not so perfect as that contemplated in the letter written to this department by desire of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Education, which was sent to the West Indies in my Circular Despatch of the 26th January last, and although that more perfect system should not be lost sight of as an object to be ultimately attained, yet, the Moravian system described by Lieut.-Governor Græme is an excellent one in itself, and well worthy of general imitation.

For Earl Grey's Circular Despatch of the 26th January, 1847, *vide* Papers relative to the West Indies and Mauritius, 27th April, 1847, No. 325, page 2.

I have caused to be transmitted to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and recommended to their attention, an extract of so much of Lieut.-Governor Græme's report, as expresses his opinion that the missionaries should not seek contributions from the Negroes to Foreign missions, whilst their contributions to the schools in the Island are insufficient, and that one effect of this practice is to stop contributions in aid of the schools by the local Legislature.

With regard to the measures adverted to by the Lieut.-Governor for extending the franchise, and to the apprehensions which have been entertained of the effect of such measures in committing political functions to the proprietors of small lots of land, I beg to suggest whether it might not be advantageous to adopt in any measures for extending the franchise, whether in Tobago or in other West Indian Islands, the regulation established in New Zealand by the charter recently issued, requiring ability to read and write as one qualification of electors. This, as it appears to me, would at once tend to increase the desire for education, and without establishing too high a pecuniary qualification, would obviate the dangers which have been apprehended from too wide an extension of the franchise.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GREY.

His Excellency Governor Reid,
&c., &c., &c.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 14.

(No. 49.)

No. 14.

Enclosures in Governor Reid's Despatch to Earl Grey, No. 17, May 8, 1847.

Sir, Saint Lucia, March 11, 1847.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency in duplicate, the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1846.

Blue Book in duplicate.

Having arrived in this Island in February last, more than a month after the conclusion of the period to which the Blue Book refers, I do not feel myself at liberty to accompany it with any remarks, which (did the shortness of my residence here enable me to make), would belong more properly to the year 1847. I have considered it, therefore, more proper to confine myself to a few remarks on the half-yearly Reports from the different districts, which have come in since my arrival, and which reports are enclosed in my Despatch of the 8th instant, No. 48.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES HAY, Lieut.-Col.

His Excellency Governor Reid,
&c., &c., &c.

(No. 48.) ST. LUCIA.

SIR, Saint Lucia, March 8, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Reports of the special magistrates for the half year ending the 31st December, 1846.

The delay which has been occasioned in the transmission of these documents arises from the forms not having arrived in time.

With reference to the query relating to schools, I shall venture to offer a few observations upon this interesting subject, and although my residence in the colony has been very limited, yet from personal observations, and by referring to the Reports for 1845, there appears to have been no increase in the number of children attending the Mico schools. This I consider should not be the case, and I think, to ensure the full benefit of these establishments, it would be highly desirable that certain members of the Legislative Council and the stipendiary magistrates of each district, should be invested with authority to visit at certain periods these schools, at present their inspection is only by courtesy.

I shall, therefore, consider it my duty to suggest to the Council when the next annual grant is proposed, that a Committee of that body should be named to watch over the interest of these schools, being fully satisfied it would tend to allay the suspicions of the Roman Catholic priests on the score of proselytism, and would prove an able check to any attempt on the part of either Protestant or Roman Catholic to introduce any deviation from the system which I believe was originally intended, viz.:—Education, of a purely secular nature, and alike to children of any religious denomination.

The majority of the population of St. Lucia, is Roman Catholic, every allowance should therefore be made for the existing suspicions of the priests and the parents of the children, the teachers being Protestants and the English language alone used, could these suspicions be allayed, I feel satisfied, that in a short time the number attending the Mico schools which is at present 411, would be doubled.

The 5th district appears to be behind the others as regards educational advantages, this, in a great measure is to be attributed to its remote position, and the difficulty of access both by sea and land.

I shall take an early opportunity of bringing also to the notice of the Council the manifest importance of improving the communications to this district. On the subject of crimes, I shall desire the magistrates in their future Reports, to furnish more in detail the information required by queries 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, which will show at a glance the comparative statement of crimes of each district in proportion to its population.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES HAY, Lieut.-Col.
Administering the Government.

His Excellency Colonel Reid, C.B., F.R.S.,
Governor-in-Chief.

No. 51.) No. 15. No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor REID.

SIR, Downing-street, August 27, 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the Blue Book of St. Lucia for 1846, accompanied by a letter, addressed to you on the 8th March, by President Hay. See General Despatch, No. 17, May 8, 1847.

I approve of the steps proposed to be taken by Colonel Hay for procuring a proper inspection of the schools which are assisted by grants of public money, and I entirely concur with you and him in attaching the greatest importance to a system of management and inspection which should check every attempt at proselytism in those schools, and obviate all suspicion of it on the part of the people and of the ministers of the Gospel of every persuasion. I learn, with great satisfaction, the success which has attended the infant schools in diffusing a knowledge of the English language. No object can be more essential than this to the progress and good government of the colony.

I have, &c.,

GREY.

His Excellency Governor Reid,
&c. &c. &c.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

No. 16.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(No. 4.) No. 16.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to Earl Grey.

Government House, Antigua,
April 17, 1847.

My Lord,

I had the honour to report by the last mail, my return to this place, after having visited the several islands comprising the general government entrusted to my charge.

I now submit for your Lordship's information, copies of addresses interchanged between their respective Legislatures and myself, on the occasion of my first meeting them, from which your Lorship will not fail to observe that the suggestions on the various subjects which I conceived it my duty to offer for their consideration, were received in a proper and becoming spirit; and that there exists no unwillingness in any quarter to attend to all recommendations emanating from Her Majesty's Government. The addresses presented by all the Legislatures, were very gratifying to me personally, but what I consider to be of much higher value, the tone and temper pervading these communications afford strong indications of unhesitating submission to all enactments which the wisdom of the Imperial Parliament may adopt, with a view to advance the common interests of the empire, and of a resolute determination to meet and combat the difficulties of their new position; and which, whatever the ultimate result may prove, are in the first instance necessarily increased by the withdrawal of that protection in favour of their staple products, heretofore enjoyed by the West India planters.

The people of these islands are sensible of, and highly prize the earnest desire manifested by Her Majesty's present Government to aid them in the existing crisis, and do not doubt the advantages which they will experience from the measures now under the consideration of Parliament, for the admission of sugars into breweries and distilleries, and the more equitable adjustment of the duty on colonial spirits; the removal of all obstructions from emigration, and the direct countenance and encouragement about to be given to it from the coast of Africa, which undoubtedly affords the labourer best suited to work on sugar plantations, is also gratefully appreciated; but, my Lord, I am bound to add, that still further concessions are expected, for the colonists contend, and not without reason, that they who are amongst the first to suffer, are justly entitled to all the advantages conferred by unresricted freedom of exchange; and that as all protection in the home market is being withdrawn from their chief source of wealth, it ought not to be continued to other interests at their expense.

The remarks upon the general condition and prospects of these islands which I am now about to offer may be considered applicable to all; and I shall subsequently notice separately any features that may be opposite to each.

The fervent loyalty and attachment to British institutions, for which the West Indian colonists have ever been conspicuous, I have the satisfaction of assuring your Lordship continue unabated; and that as a representative of a Sovereign whom they love, I was every where greeted with strong manifestations of this devoted feeling.

During my necessarily brief sojourn at each island, my object was to see as much of the country and its inhabitants as was practicable, and I may venture to say, that this was pretty well accomplished.

My tour of inspection was certainly made under favourable auspices, for the cane fields were everywhere teeming with produce, and with the prospect of rising prices; nevertheless, making due allowance for the colouring imparted to men's views, and for the buoyancy of feeling excited by these adventitious circumstances, I witnessed sufficient to satisfy me that a spirit of enterprize has been awakened, and a more confident dependence on their own resources and exertions has been aroused, which must materially contribute to overcome the crisis which have called them forth.

The relations subsisting between the employers and labourers are on a much

improved footing. The great importance of affording the latter opportunities of acquiring a direct and personal interest in the soil, is now almost universally acknowledged, as well as the prospective advantages to be derived from elevating the character of the rising generation, by affording them the means of religious instruction and industrial training.

I have endeavoured to impress upon all my conviction of the paramount importance of keeping these objects in view, for I believe they are calculated to exercise a powerful influence over the future prospects of these Islands. Immigration and rigid economy in the production of their staples will do much; but on the formation of an intelligent industrious native peasantry, still more will depend.

They must be viewed as the sinews of the country, and as the more abiding source of prosperity.

A strong desire continues to be manifested by the negroes for the acquisition of small holdings, independent of estates; and detached villages are gradually springing up. They either purchase or rent the allotments, and when they possess the means, erect dwelling-houses upon them. They raise provisions both for their own consumption and for sale, and carry their labour to the best market; but many prefer working on the estates to which they originally belonged.

Of the general condition of the emancipated population, I am enabled to report most favourably. They have all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life within their reach, and appear to be as happy and contented a people as can be met with in any part of the world. The peculiarly rare instances of crime, beyond that of petty thefts, occurring amongst them, testify to the abundance by which they are surrounded; and although the temptation is on this account less strong, their conduct is nevertheless deserving of the highest commendation. But in their demeanour towards each other the use of abusive langnage, and riotous conduct occasionally with assaults, are very prevalent, and form a great majority of the cases that come before the police courts.

It is due to the native peasantry, however, to add, that as contrasted with other communities who have long enjoyed those privileges and advantages, which have been conferred on them at a comparatively recent date, they are an exceedingly well behaved and orderly people.

On the subject of labour generally I did not hear much complaint; and although unquestionably scarce in many places, it is the capriciousness with which it is given, and the uncertainty of obtaining it continuously, which is at certain seasons indispensable to the cultivation and manufacture of the cane, that are most seriously felt. I remarked however that not unfrequently those evils were complained of on one estate, whilst on another in the immediate neighbourhood, no such difficulty was experienced; there being no ostensible reason for this difference, I am inclined to attribute it to the better tact and management of the employer. The negro is not insensible to the influence of the "suaviter in modo," and like other civilized beings, he is more easily led than driven.

I have on a former occasion expressed my views in regard to the benefits of immigration; and I was glad to learn that the Portuguese labourer had every where given satisfaction, but few have as yet been introduced; they do not appear to suffer from the heat of the climate, and were represented to be frugal, industrious, and sober. The outlay for their labour is greater than the cost for the negroes, but being at all times available, is considered much more valuable. I also understood that on many of those estates where the Portuguese are employed, native labour was more readily obtained than heretofore, which may be considered one of the most important and desirable results of immigration.

After emancipation and up to a late period, some of the Islands, especially Nevis and Montserrat, lost many labourers by emigration principally to Trinidad; but the instructions lately issued by your Lordship prohibiting the grant of bounties, have effectually checked this practice.

Vide Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, July, 1847, page 1.

Your Lordship will observe that I pressed upon the attention of all the Legislatures the urgent necessity of granting aid from public funds towards the education of the labouring classes. This has already been done in some of the islands, and I trust that the example will be followed in the others. I should

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

hope too, that the parents are beginning to estimate more correctly the advantages of instruction to their children; but as they previously obtained it gratuitously, their apparent unwillingness now to pay for it is not surprising. They are, with very rare exceptions, well able to afford the outlay; and all engaged in teaching now, I believe, insist upon the parents contributing some portion of the expense. A much larger proportion is paid by parents to the Moravian schools than to those of any other denomination; but I am led to think that a good deal depends upon the individual exertions of the minister of the parish, or of the schoolmaster himself.

If adequate funds could be raised to give such stipends to masters as would secure the services of an efficient and well-qualified class of men, I am disposed to think that the schools at present in operation would, generally speaking, meet the existing wants of the people.

But the pecuniary means now available are too limited, and the consequence is, that the masters and mistresses are rarely equal to the duties of their office. Industrial training ought certainly to form a more prominent feature in school discipline than it usually does, and I trust that the admirable practical suggestions on this head by Mr. Kay Shuttleworth, and which, by your Lordship's orders, have been extensively circulated throughout these islands, may produce that desirable effect. On the whole, considering the various difficulties to be contended with, it may be fairly asserted that, although much remains to be done, considerable progress has been made in the cause of education; and that the ministers of religion and others who have taken an active part in promoting its advancement, are entitled to the highest credit.

My attention was necessarily directed to the administration of justice by the resident magistrates, and it affords me great satisfaction to be able to state, that I conceive the laws are administered by them in a spirit of justice and moderation; errors of judgment may occur from a deficiency of legal knowledge, but no wilful wrong is, I believe, committed; nor could it be, unknown to the local Executive, from whom those who suffered could obtain immediate redress. The absence of complaints on this score. testifies pretty clearly that there is no ground for them.

In the constitution of the higher courts of justice there is, however, great room for improvement, and the want of an efficient and easily accessible Court of Appeal is much felt.

I shall shortly submit, for your Lordship's consideration, a plan for the formation of such a court, to hold its sittings at the seat of the General Government, and embracing all the Leeward Islands and Dominica in its operation.

The high roads, more especially in the mountainous islands, are not in very good repair; nor is the method generally adopted for their management, and for the application of the money voted for the purpose of repairs, effective or satisfactory. This important branch of the public service is now engaging attention, with a view to amendment of the system.

The financial condition of the islands generally has certainly improved of late years: and I see no sufficient reason why, under ordinary circumstances, the income of any of them should fall short of its necessary expenditure, provided that be conducted with due regard to economy and to the available resources of each. The revenue is raised almost entirely from duties on imports, and their consumption is more likely to increase than to diminish. Direct taxation is rarely resorted to, and is nowhere popular; but it is a less evil than increasing debt, the ultimate consequence of which must prove injurious, although the pressure may be for a time averted.

Dominica is the only island in which a militia force is organized; and I regret to say, that in none of the others did I find much disposition evinced to take up this question, which I am aware is justly considered of great importance by Her Majesty's Government. The service seems to be unpopular, and the want of a militia will probably not be felt until some exigency may arise to call for their enrolment; although, in such an event I could pledge myself to the loyal and well-disposed inhabitants of these colonies readily and cheerfully shouldering their muskets, this does not obviate the necessity of previous organization, which would enable them, when called out, to act with more effect and advantage.

I shall not lose sight of the subject.

With your Lordship's permission I shall now briefly notice the islands separately and in the order I visited them; but the leading characteristics of all so strongly assimilate that few features are strikingly peculiar to each.

DOMINICA.

This is the only island in which coloured influence predominates in the Legislative Assembly, and I was led to believe that it is exercised with good sense and discretion. It is gratifying to observe that former invidious distinctions founded on colour or descent are fast disappearing everywhere, and that the justice of measuring men of all origins by the true standard of moral worth and propriety of conduct is almost universally recognised.

Reform is urgently required in the administration of justice in the higher courts. Without the slightest desire to impugn the character of the Chief Judge, I must say that the courts certainly have not heretofore commanded confidence. The subject is under the consideration of the Legislature, who indicate anxious desire to co-operate in devising some remedial measures which, I trust may soon be matured.

The public buildings are defective; the residence of the Lieut.-Governor ill suited to its purpose.

The unsatisfactory state of the gaol induced me to address a message to the Legislature. No lunatic asylum has yet been erected, but there is an establishment, supported partly by public funds and partly by private charity, for accommodation of the diseased and infirm poor.

A deputation of Roman Catholic gentlemen waited on me to solicit that I would recommend to the Legislature that some provision should be made for the payment of their clergy, the number of whom has within the last few years increased from one or two to eight or nine. Five-sixths of the population are supposed to be of this persuasion, and I therefore readily admitted the justice of their church's claim to a share of public support, and I requested the Lieut.-Governor to bring their application under the favourable notice of the Legislative Council and Assembly.

The cultivation of coffee, formerly largely exported, is almost entirely given up, by reason of the blight which fell upon the plant some years back, and sugar is now grown upon many of the old coffee estates.

I was informed that more land is now under cane-crop than during slavery; it approaches the tops of the mountains, and is extending. Some is cultivated by the labourer on his own account, and some "on shares" with the proprietor.

Implemental husbandry is little used, nor is the soil well suited to it, being of a rocky and mountainous character.

MONTSERRAT.

I regret to say that this island, formerly one of the most flourishing, now appears the least prosperous of the leeward group. Before emancipation the crop averaged about 2500 hogsheads; last year 600 hogsheads only were exported, and this season about 1000 hogsheads are expected. A large proportion of the land is thrown out of cultivation. The price of labour is less here than elsewhere, and I believe can generally be obtained without difficulty by those who possess the means of paying for it.

There appears to be no inferiority either of soil or climate.

There is evidently a great dearth of capital, an indispensable element of prosperity; but I confess that I am at a loss to fully account for the decline of this island as compared with her neighbours. A legislative union with Antigua was proposed by Sir C. FitzRoy, assented to by the local Legislature, and sanctioned by the Crown. This measure would, in my opinion, afford the best prospect of relief, and I shall endeavour to effect it.

The gaol is not very well planned, but the accommodation seemed equal to the exigencies of the island. An asylum for lunatics has lately been formed, and an improved provision is about being made for the relief of the poor.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

NEVIS.

Though the exports fall far short of the annual average during slavery, the island is represented to be recovering from the shock sustained by the abolition, and will, I think, continue to improve. Many estates are cultivated in part, and a few, I believe, entirely, on the metairé system, which is found to work well, and to give satisfaction to both proprietor and labourer. Objections, I am aware, are entertained by some to this plan, but where capital is wanting and land thrown up in consequence, I conceive that it is well adapted to meet the necessities of the case.

Negroes are occasionally seen here to ride on their own horses to work in the cane-fields, which I did not hear of elsewhere.

I was informed that the coloured constituencies could command a majority in the Legislative assembly, but as yet they usually exercise their franchise in favour of white representatives; it may, however, be presumed that this preference will not last long.

Except by one proprietor neither the plough or any modern implements of husbandry have yet been introduced.

The gaol affords sufficient accommodation, but not susceptible of good arrangement. I found only one convict in it, and, as the term of his sentence was nearly completed, I remitted the unexpired portion, and left the convicts' wards without an inmate. There is no building for the reception of lunatics, but a well regulated asylum for the impotent and diseased poor has been established. I was sorry to learn that the Church of England schools were defective as compared with others.

ST. KITTS

Affords various indications of returning prosperity. Implemental husbandry is in general use, and considerable saving in the cost of production has in consequence been effected, both by economy of labour and larger returns. The land appeared to be in a high state of cultivation, and the planters seemed determined to turn their resources to the best account. A good number of steam-mills are in operation; but, in my opinion, neither here nor in any of the other islands, is sufficient attention directed to the process of manufacture, which I cannot help thinking is susceptible of improvement; although several experiments have been tried without success, and many intelligent planters prefer adhering to the old system.

All works of public utility are liberally supported by the Legislature; 600*l.* sterling is granted annually in aid of education, and has been of most essential service. An exceedingly commodious poor-house and infirmary have been built, and 800*l.* sterling is provided for their maintenance; the management of this admirable institution struck me as defective, and a Bill to amend it is about being brought before the Legislature. An asylum for lunatics is also established, and a new gaol will very shortly be completed.

ANGUILLA

Is a dependency of St. Kitts, and though in some respects progressing, for obvious reasons cannot keep pace with her more favoured sister. The native inhabitants are a superior race, and particularly correct in their deportment, but of about 20 sugar estates formerly under cultivation, only three or four are now kept up, and the return from them very limited, probably in this favorable season not exceeding 40 hogsheads. The negroes appeared to be in comfortable circumstances notwithstanding; they raise stock and provisions, for their own consumption, and occasionally for exportation. The climate is very salubrious, and crime is almost unknown.

Money does not circulate; the produce of the salt ponds, which might at small expense be much increased, is bartered for supplies generally imported in North American vessels. The labourers could easily obtain employment in the neighbouring islands, but they seldom resort to them.

There is now a clergyman of the Church of England, and a Wesleyan Minister settled here. Schools have been set on foot, but funds are much re-

quired to put them into successful operation, and the public revenue is at present unequal to bear any additional burthen, although latterly much improved. LEEWARD ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Have retrograded much, and until within the last few months, the antagonism of the popular branch of the Legislature greatly impeded the proceedings of the Executive Government; harmony now prevails, and several useful measures have lately been enacted.

Many estates have been thrown out of cultivation, and the old methods of tilling the soil are adhered to. Labour is not scarce, but from want of capital, the means of paying for it are deficient. The *metairé* system is on some estates found to work well. The grazing lands are good and extensive, and the negroes are enabled to raise stock at very trifling cost, and to sell at good prices.

The revenue laws are systematically evaded, for which these islands offer peculiar facilities, and more direct taxation is the consequence.

The gaol is not well planned, but affords the necessary accommodation. In the absence of an asylum, I found two lunatics confined in the gaol, but I have reason to expect that this deficiency will soon be remedied. Adequate provision is made by the Legislature for the infirm and diseased poor; and some aid is also granted in support of the Church of England schools, which may, perhaps, be extended to others, where the state of the public finances will admit of it.

Before concluding this despatch, I have to crave your Lordship's indulgence for its deficiencies, and to apologize for what may, perhaps, be deemed tedious prolixity; I am fully sensible that my information is imperfect, and that my views may be erroneous, but it is my ardent desire to communicate frankly and accurately the impressions which I received, and as far as lies in my power, to make your Lordship acquainted with the real condition and prospects of a people for whose welfare and advancement I feel the most anxious concern, and in which I am well assured, that Her Majesty's Government take the deepest interest.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

(No. 1.) No. 17. No. 17.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Higginson.

Sir, Downing-street, May 30, 1847.

I have received, and have read with much interest, your despatch, dated 17th April, 1847, No. 4, reporting the result of a tour of inspection which you had made of the several colonies within the Leeward Islands Government.

I have derived great satisfaction from the favourable impressions which the survey of these islands has, with few exceptions, made upon you; and I am happy to acknowledge the soundness of the views which that survey has suggested to you, and the clearness with which you have expressed them.

I have, &c.,

To Governor Higginson, &c. &c. (Signed) GREY.

ANTIGUA.

No. 18.

ANTIGUA.

(No. 37.) No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, Antigua,
May 25, 1847.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this island for the year 1846, the completion of which, I regret to say, has been delayed by the difficulty experienced in procuring all the returns required to be inserted in it. The document has been compiled with great care, and will, I hope, afford satisfaction.

Page 40. In a late Report upon the condition and prospects of the several islands comprising this general government, which I had the honour of making to your Lordship after I had visited them, Antigua was not by name included; but as the general remarks which I then ventured to offer were equally applicable to this colony, in discharging the duty now required of me, I shall endeavour to avoid troubling your Lordship with a repetition of them.

The Returns furnished exhibit a diminution both of Imports and Exports as compared with 1845. The estimated value of Imports being 213,967*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* in 1846, as against 267,237*l.* in 1845; and of Exports 177,520*l.* 10*s.* in 1846, against 295,492*l.* 10*s.* in 1845. The falling off in Imports appears to be chiefly attributable to a diminished quantity of supplies being introduced in the past year from the United States; arising partly, perhaps, from the more contracted demand for them than in previous years, when an unusual quantity of supplies of various kinds was required for the restoration of damages occasioned by the earthquake of 1843, and partly perhaps from the very short crop of 1846 causing money to be less freely circulated. While the great reduction in the Exports has been occasioned by the very unfavourable weather experienced by the planters in taking off the last year's crop, calms prevailing in the early part of the season, and towards the end heavy and continuous rains, 7,171 hogsheads, 621 tierces, and 1,368 barrels of sugar only having been shipped in 1846, while in 1845 the export amounted to 11,805 hogsheads, 1,012 tierces, and 2,724 barrels. A considerable portion of last year's crop will consequently be computed in that of the present year, and it is expected that the average of the two years will be fully equal to the crop of 1845. I regret, however, to add, that some apprehensions are beginning to be entertained for the crop of 1848, as, in consequence of the long-continued drought, the planting cannot be proceeded with; but there is still time to save the plant if rain should soon fall.

In the comparative yearly statement of receipts and expenditure it will be found that the revenue for 1846 is less by 5,967*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.* sterling, than that of 1845, arising principally from the reduced receipts on account of Import duties, which form the chief source of revenue. And it will also be found that the expenditure of 1846 has exceeded that of 1845 by 4,731*l.* 15*s.* 4½*d.*, owing to causes explained in the Treasurer's return. This reduction of income and excess of expenditure, together with the large grants made for the erection of the new cathedral, have absorbed the surplus revenue remaining in hand at the end of 1845. And in consequence of the still further diminution of import duties in the present year, the question of raising additional funds for the exigencies of the public service is now under the consideration of the legislature. Although for the above reasons it cannot be said that the financial affairs of the colony are as prosperous as they have been, no embarrassment is apprehended, the existing deficiency being considered only temporary; but on the contrary, it is anticipated that as our trade reverts to its wonted channel, from which it has been diverted by unforeseen and unusual events, and that having got rid of the heavy drain on the Treasury for the restoration of public buildings damaged or destroyed by the earthquake of 1843, the future annual revenue will be equal to the current expenditure, without the necessity of having recourse to increased taxation.

Of the public works undertaken in former years and unfinished in 1845, the causeway connecting the City of St. John's with that island, on which the Lunatic Asylum stands, has been completed, having been constructed chiefly by convict labour.

The erection of the cathedral has proceeded rapidly, and it will be opened for the performance of Divine service in a very few months. 30,370*l.* sterling has been expended on this building, and it is estimated that the entire cost will be about 34,000*l.* sterling.

It must be admitted that the resources of the island were incommensurate with so large an outlay, and that a less costly edifice would have better suited the state of the public finances.

The cathedral will contain 2,200 sittings, and increased church accommodation is represented to be much required in this populous parish of St. John's.

The restoration of other churches in the rural parishes is in progress, but none have yet been completed.

I had lately the satisfaction of transmitting to your Lordship an Act passed by the Legislature, entitled "An Act to make provision for the formation and repair of Highways in this Island, and for the repairs of the Streets and Highways in the City of St. John's and other Towns of this Island."

This enactment remedies the defective system under which this branch of the public service was formerly conducted, and to which reference was made in the last annual Report. The state of the roads generally is considerably improved, though in some localities much remains to be done. I have reason to believe that under the present more efficient method of superintendence and control, the highways throughout the island may be kept in a better state of repair and at less expense to the public.

The agricultural prospects of the island may, on the whole be considered encouraging; that unusual exertions are demanded both here and at home, to carry these colonies safely through the struggle that awaits them, no one can doubt; but whatever the issue may be, it is satisfactory to be assured that there is no despondency amongst us, and that a determination is evinced to meet and to combat our difficulties in that manly and becoming spirit, which may not inaptly be viewed as a fair earnest of success.

I am not aware that within the last year any material changes have been introduced either as regards the tillage of the land or the manufacture of its produce; but a marked and growing disposition is observable in favour of those modern improvements which are calculated to economize labour and to reduce the cost of production. The plough has for many years been in general use, and other implements of husbandry have been more or less adopted; but not I conceive to the extent that is practicable and would be instrumental in diminishing the expense of cultivation; although at the same time it must be conceded to the advocates of the hoe, that the benefits from the more extended substitution of implemental for manual husbandry will vary according to the character of the soil, which is better suited to the former method of tillage on some estates than on others.

The Hoe, Harrow, and Plough Company, referred to in a former Report, is still in existence, and has rendered some service; but not having received the degree of support that was expected, the operations of the Company have been contracted, and its dissolution is anticipated.

Vide Reports of 1846, presented by command, page 99.

In regard to the manufacture of sugar and the distillation of rum, except in the introduction of steam-power which is used on a few estates, the present process seems to differ little, if at all, from that which obtained a century ago; a few experiments have of late years been made with a view to improvement, but I am informed that the result has generally been discouraging, arising probably from defective machinery, or a want of skill in the application of it. Proprietors and managers of estates are, however, alive to the necessity of availing themselves of all resources within their reach, so as to enable them to meet the exigencies of their position as employers of free labour, and to compete successfully with their more favoured rivals. It may be hoped, that the General Agricultural Society, which has been for some time in abeyance, but which has lately been reorganized, will prove a valuable auxiliary in introducing more skilful and economical processes of cultivation and manufacture, by which larger returns may be drawn from the soil without a proportionate advance of cost.

The weather continues to be exceedingly favourable for taking off the crop, and I hear few complaints of difficulty being experienced in accomplishing it from a scarcity of labour, although in some parts of the island it is less easily obtained than in others, and commands a higher price. But the negro not

ANTIGUA.

being dependent on the wages of continuous labour, is enabled to exercise a caprice in giving or withholding it, which is felt more or less everywhere. It may be observed, however, that to secure continuous labour, continuous employment may be required, and this perhaps is not sufficiently attended to; there is, of course, a greater demand for labour on estates at some seasons than at others, and the same cause which creates the increased demand, frequently renders the negro's labour more valuable on his own provision grounds.

Between 600 and 700 Portuguese immigrants, including men, women and children, have been within the last few months imported from Madeira, and more are expected. I have visited the estates on which these people are principally located, and found them comfortably accommodated, and well satisfied with their condition. There has not been sufficient time to test this new source of labour, but the experiment appears so far to be successful.

The Portuguese are represented to be fully equal to the work of a sugar plantation, whether in the field or in the boiling-house, and to be sober, willing, and industrious. It is computed, that the cost of their labour after payment of expenses connected with their importation, will not exceed that now paid for the natives; so that if the climate does not prove inimical to their constitutions, and they continue able to bear the fatigue and exposure to which they are necessarily subjected, the Portuguese immigrants will greatly benefit their own condition of life, and at the same time prove a valuable acquisition to the colony. There has been no jealousy or ill feeling shown by the negroes to these strangers, by whom, on the contrary, they have been received in a kind and friendly manner, and they work together on amicable terms. The rates of wages have not been affected, but it is said that native labour is more readily obtained since the introduction of foreign aid.

Here as in other islands, the material condition of the emancipated race is most satisfactory. They are abundantly supplied with all the necessaries, and many of the comforts of life. They are well fed, well housed and well clothed; the passion for fine dress in both sexes continues unabated. Through the aid of friendly societies, which are in active and beneficial operation, the poorest can command good medical attendance, and other privileges seldom enjoyed by persons in a similar rank of life in other countries. The number of labourers withdrawing from estates and settling in detached villages, where they purchase or rent small independent holdings, continues to increase. As stated on a former occasion, by the latest returns made up to June of last year, there appears to be 70 settlements formed, containing about 3300 houses, and a population of about 9300. These village communities are not peculiar to Antigua, but owing to the transition which took place here direct from slavery to freedom, without the intervention of apprenticeship, they have made greater progress in this island, and from them may spring the germ of a middle class, which must exercise considerable influence over the future destinies of the colony. By acquiring a direct and personal interest in the soil, the negroes become more identified with it, they will become sooner sensible of the duties as well as the rights attaching to property, they will more readily learn to correctly appreciate the advantages and privileges they enjoy, and to understand that the prosperity of both the larger and smaller properties, of the employers and labourers, is equally involved in the profitable cultivation of estates.

I am unable to pronounce an opinion on the spiritual and moral enlightenment of the emancipated race with so much confidence as I have ventured to offer one on their social and physical improvement; although I have no reason to doubt, that gradual progress in these most essential points is being made, and more perhaps than is immediately perceptible. The continued absence of all crime of an aggravated character is remarkable; and with the exception of petty quarrels and assaults upon each other, which are exceedingly prevalent, the peaceable and orderly demeanour of the rural peasantry, and their general propriety of conduct in paying attention to religious observances and deference to the laws, entitle them to high commendation. The relations now subsisting between them and their former masters have assumed their proper character, and are better understood by both parties.

In the few years that have passed since the abolition of slavery, more kind and liberal sentiments have superseded those feelings which previously led to estrangement, and were so destructive of mutual confidence and respect; and

the suspicion and distrust engendered by a state of bondage are gradually yielding to the healing influences of justice and of freedom.

The value of education and industrial training to the rising generation cannot be overrated. As I have lately had the honour of addressing your Lordship on this momentous subject, I need not here say more than that it will continue to occupy my earnest attention. I omit no opportunity of pressing upon the Legislature, both collectively and individually, the paramount importance of aiding and encouraging the imparting of useful knowledge to the children of the working classes; and I cherish the hope that in the next Legislative Session some assistance from public funds will be granted in support of an object which so materially involves the interests of all classes of the community.

The advantages to the lower orders that have usually attended the operation of savings' banks are, I trust, likely to be realized here. One was opened under the provisions of a late enactment in the town of St. John's, on the 22nd of March, and 67 depositors, mechanics and labourers, are now borne on the books of the institution. The negro's custom has heretofore been to bury their money, or otherwise to conceal it; the opportunity afforded by the savings' banks for its more safe and profitable investment, may, it is to be hoped, incite their industry, by encouraging a desire to increase their store.

A copy of the Inspector of Prisons' Report is submitted herewith. Considerable attention has been paid of late years in this island to the important subject of prison discipline, with a view to reformation and punishment; and it may be hoped that the measures that have been adopted, together with the great facility of obtaining a livelihood by common industry, will have some effect in repressing crime. The House of Correction and Gaol were combined in 1844, and the very satisfactory and efficient state of the united prison, and the system of management, is highly creditable to the Provost Marshal, under whose immediate superintendence it has been placed, and to the other officers employed. No deaths have occurred within the year. The number of commitments have been 416, exceeding that of 1845 by 2, and the number of offences committed within the prison are also in excess of the previous year. Military criminals are included in the return of commitments, and their numbers have latterly considerably increased.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 18. Encl. in No. 18.

SIR, St. John's, Antigua, 11th May, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, my Report as Inspector of Prisons in this Island for the year 1846.

My observations will contain little of interest, owing to the absence of any occurrence of importance in the history of the establishment during the period under consideration, and to the well regulated system of management and supervision which now prevails. It cannot indeed be denied that since the passing of the Act uniting the House of Correction with the common Gaol in 1844, a marked and unquestionable improvement has resulted in the mode of carrying out the discipline of the prison, as prescribed in the code of regulations: a gratifying fact, ascribable in a great degree to the liberal provision made by the Legislature for the expenses of the united establishments, and which has had its reward in securing a more effective return of labour from the convict prisoners.

The buildings, it may be necessary to state, consist of part of a range originally occupied as barracks, and although entirely rebuilt after the disastrous earthquake of 1843, yet as no change was attempted in their form or plan, they remain liable to the same objection as before, compared with the splendid and expensive model prisons of the mother country, namely, that they do not admit of an immediate and direct surveillance by the keeper over the whole interior from one central station. As, however, the average number of prisoners in confinement may be considered high if taken at 60, while there is accommodation for 150, and a considerable portion of these are employed during the day outside the walls, while a gallery runs the entire length of the building, commanding a view of the airing yards of the males, and into which gallery all the cell doors open, the objection is in truth more apparent than real.

The premises have been carefully kept in repair, and such improvements as have been found absolutely requisite effected by the labour of the prisoners themselves, the materials being provided at the public expense; for instance, the walls have been pointed and coloured, the

ANTIGUA.

pavements relaid, kitchen boilers rehung, new jalousie blinds made and fitted to all the western windows of the rooms on the upper floor, &c., &c. The repairs found necessary from time to time at the adjoining barrack are also, so far as practicable, effected by the prisoners. Those prisoners, who not being mechanics, are employed in ordinary labour, were for the most part occupied either in breaking stones within the walls for macadamizin the roads, or in finishing the causeway from the city of St. John's to Rat Island, a work which appears to have been completed in a substantial manner, and with great promise of durability. For the remainder of the year their labour has been made available in repairing the highways approaching the city, which were in a ruinous condition, owing to the expiration of the law regulating their repair. Females are of course employed in washing, making, and mending clothes, or cleaning their own wards, and occasionally in breaking stones or weeding their own yards, as is found expedient. The clothing and bedding of the prisoners is all made up in the prison.

The prisoners are dieted by contract, which during the year 1846, was taken at 9*d.* sterling per head per diem, and the terms have been fully and satisfactorily complied with by the contractor. The subjoined is the weekly dietary, established under the authority of the Provost Marshal, and subject to such alterations as he may think fit to direct or sanction.

	Breakfast.	Dinner.
Monday . . .	Bread.	Soup, vegetables, and a proportion of meat.
Tuesday . . .	,,	Bread and salt meat.
Wednesday . .	,,	Vegetables and saltfish.
Thursday . . .	,,	Vegetables and salt meat.
Friday, same as Wednesday.		
Saturday, same as Monday.		
Sunday, same as Tuesday.		

The quantities of each article and the proportions allotted to the several classes of prisoners are defined in the regulations, and the surgeon has unlimited authority in regard to the dietary of his patients.

There has not been any death in the prison during the year, and although the number of cases of sickness has been large there have been none of a serious character, or which could be ascribed to any local cause.

The proportion of recommitments to the whole number is apparently as small as can be reasonably expected, but that of illiterate prisoners is very high, upwards of 50 per cent., a fact which it seems difficult to reconcile with the admitted facilities for instruction enjoyed by the lower classes of this community.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAS. WATSON SHERIFF,
Inspector of Prisons.

His Excellency Jas. M. Higginson, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

No. 19.

(No. 18.) No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, Antigua,
April 16, 1847.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith in duplicate the "Blue Book" of St. Kitts for the year 1846, together with a copy of the Report made thereon by the Officer administering the Government.

The book appears to have been carefully and correctly compiled. And it affords me the highest satisfaction to be able to corroborate, from personal observation, the favourable view expressed by Mr. Claxton of the prospects of this improving colony, in which I saw various indications of returning prosperity.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 19.

(No. 12.) Enclosure in No. 19.

Government House, St. Christopher,
March 10, 1847.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year ending the 31st December, 1846.

Your Excellency will no doubt observe that there has occurred a decrease in the imports tnto this island from the previous year to the extent of 10,000*l.* sterling, and also a decrease in he revenue to the extent of 400*l.*; the former has probably been occasioned by the market for goods of English manufacture having been too abundantly supplied during the previous year, and the surplus stock on hand compelling the holders to be more careful in their orders for the current year, and the consequent result is a diminution in the revenue arising from imports. The heavy deficiency of 50,000*l.* on the exports was occasioned by the crop of our staple produce having in a great measure failed from a continued drought; and this calamity may have also had its influence in diminishing the imports.

I am happy to be enabled to inform your Excellency that the new Gaol is nearly completed. The iron roof ordered from Glasgow has been here for some time, and a contract has been entered into with a competent engineer for its erection. A very short period will, I trust, be sufficient to complete this building, which will prove creditable as well as useful to the colony.

A lighthouse has also been erected on the beach of Basseterre for the purpose of assisting the steam-packets and other vessels at night to a safe anchorage; and at an early meeting of the Legislature I apprehend that arrangements will be made for placing it under careful superintendence. While on the subject of public buildings, I lament to inform your Excellency that the new church, the building of which was commenced in 1845, makes but little progress; the funds derived from parochial sources are inadequate for the purpose, and it languishes for the want of the fostering support and care of the Legislature. While the completion of the cathedral in our sister colony of Antigua evinces the religious zeal of her inhabitants through their representatives, the hearts of every true churchman mourn over the apathy which prevails here on this deeply interesting subject.

I willingly lead, however, your Excellency's attention to the more pleasing consideration of the liberality of the Legislature during the last Session in the grant by Bill of an annual sum of 600*l.* sterling for three years for the purpose of promoting the education of the industrial classes. This sum has been distributed among the clergy of the Church of England and the Moravian and Wesleyan missionaries in aid of the schools of their respective establishments, and the Commissioners of Education have made it a condition of their grants that the scholars shall pay a trifling weekly contribution, under the hope that hereafter education will be sufficiently estimated to enable the schools to subsist without much, if any, legislative assistance. An annual residue of 40*l.* from the legislative grant has been appropriated to afford admission to six pupils, whose families may be in distressed circumstances, at the academy of Mr. Wattley, where boys of a higher class in society are educated; and this may prove the nucleus hereafter of an establishment highly useful.

The Act for the establishment of a lunatic asylum, the Act for the appointing a commissioner of roads, and that for the appointment of responsible coroners, evince the liberal and protective spirit of the Legislature in these important subjects.

I cannot fail to advert to the agricultural prospects of the colony for the present year. The more general application of implemental husbandry, under the charge originally of European immigrants, and subsequently also of the native labourers, whose emulation was excited, and has been rewarded, by the additional wages which their skill has enabled them to earn, has been found eminently successful; and the general industry of the agriculturists, blessed by the former and the latter rain of a bounteous Providence, combine to justify the expectations of an unusually abundant crop. I continue to afford my testimony to the good conduct and industrious habits of the labouring population. The independent villages, which are continually starting up, and increasing in extent in every parish of the island, afford a regular and healthy supply of labour to the adjacent estates; but the labour market would hardly afford a sufficient supply for carrying on the combined operations of manufacturing the present large crop, and preparing land for the reception of that of 1848, if the latter process were not very much facilitated by the land being opened by the plough, and the young plants protected from noxious weeds by the weeding implement. Some estates, particularly in the higher lands ana in the parish of St. Thomas, Middle Island, suffer materially from the want of labour; and the introduction of emigrants would be particularly beneficial to these estates, as well as to the island generally.

I apprehend, however, that the prospects of the colony continue to improve; and the results of the late enactments of the mother country, rendered necessary for the purpose of relieving the distress occasioned by the scarcity of food in Ireland and Scotland, have for a time dispelled the gloom which appeared to settle in the colony when the equalization of the duties on slave and free grown sugar was first made generally known.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Robert Claxton, President,
administering the Government.

His Excellency J. M. Higginson, Esq.,
Governor-in-Chief, Antigua.

DOMINICA.

No. 20.

DOMINICA.

(No. 7.) No. 20.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to Earl Grey.

Government House, Antigua,
April 23, 1847.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Dominica Blue Book, in duplicate, for the year 1846, together with the Report of the Lieutenant-Governor thereon.

Col. McDonald, No. 27, March 31.

The book appears to have been carefully compiled. I am not aware that it is necessary for me to add to the remarks made by the Lieutenant-Governor, further than to express my concurrence in the view taken by him of the progressive improvement of the colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 20.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Government House, Dominica,
March 31, 1847.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the "Annual Blue Book" for 1846, and although there appears to be but little matter of a particular nature to communicate differing from the last Report, I would at the same time beg to offer a few observations on the various subjects to which this record has reference.

Revenue.

In drawing your Excellency's attention to this subject, I feel gratified at being able to report on the steady and improving condition of the finance of the colony, as compared with the two preceding years.

	£.	s.	d.
In the year 1844 the imports amounted to	60,744	6	8
In 1845 . . .	63,947	0	0
In 1846 . . .	77,835	0	0

showing an increase in these two years of no less a sum than 17,090*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

The exports for the same period amounted to—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1844 . . .	72,424	0	0
In 1845 . . .	75,115	0	0
In 1846 . . .	78,076	0	0

thereby showing a surplus of 5,652*l.*, as compared with the year 1844.

The increase of the Revenue, as compared with the last year's Return, amounts to 1,399*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, and this, notwithstanding the general Tax Bill, (from which the greater part of the Revenue is derived,) was allowed to expire, the revival of which only came into operation in the month of May.

Public Improvements.

Under this head I would only observe that the work for the construction of a canal, which had been projected for the conveyance of water into the town from the Roseau river, and which was already far advanced towards completion, has been suspended, from the circumstance of the agent of the estate, through which the canal should pass, having refused permission; but as an Act of Indemnity is about being passed by the Legislature, I look forward with the hopes of seeing that useful undertaking (which promises so much benefit to the inhabitants) being ultimately completed.

Population.

No sensible change appears to have taken place since last year, with the exception of the arrival of some Portuguese emigrants from the island of Madeira (amounting to about 180) towards the close of the year.

These people promise to be useful auxiliaries to the proprietors of estates, not only as being of industrious habits themselves, but acting as a stimulus to the Negro population for further energy on their part.

I visited several estates on which these people are located, and was pleased to find them well satisfied with their situation. The agent, under whose charge they have been placed, has done all in his power to contribute to their comfort: the habitations erected for them are, in every respect, of a better description than those used by the Negroes; the sites are well chosen, hence I have every reason to conclude these frugal and industrious people will answer their own as well as the expectations of the proprietors.

Education.

The classical seminary alluded to in my former Report has, for the present, been suspended. In the first instance it gave promise of answering the object sought to be accomplished; but as the pupils gradually decreased in number, leaving only an inconsiderate few, it was deemed expedient to suspend the Act under which the college was founded.

The schools for primary instruction under the reverend the rector of Roseau, the Wesleyan mission, and Catholic clergy, are well attended to, and every encouragement afforded them. The Legislature grants 300*l.* sterling a-year towards their support. In connexion with this a commodious building, of more than an ordinary description, has been erected at Roseau, at the expense of the Vicar-General, the Abbé Capoulade. The scholars are admitted without the distinction of creed, and are instructed in the various branches of education; collectively they amount to 443, of which number 357 receive gratuitous instruction. Nothing can be more creditable than the manner in which the Abbé Capoulade has originated and now superintends this institution.

In the rural districts the proprietors, agents, and managers, assisted by the clergy, have established small school-houses for the use of the children of the people employed on the various estates. I must, however, reluctantly observe here, that there is evidently an unfavourable disposition on the part of the peasantry to contribute, on behalf of their children, to so useful and laudable a measure.

Militia.

Much attention has been bestowed towards the proper training and discipline of this force; while a new Act to amend the present one (which was passed during the period of slavery, and which required considerable alterations) is being prepared, which will further tend to the efficiency of this patriotic body of men.

Crime.

I regret to have to report that two or three instances of a capital nature, under this head, have occurred during the year; the cause for which I can afford no explanation, but, being of so unusual a character, I may confidently hope a recurrence is not likely to take place.

Legislative Enactments.

Her Majesty has in Council sanctioned two new Acts, passed by the Legislature of this colony, viz., the General Tax Act, and the Rum Duty Act.

The Goal.

Although some improvement has taken place in the course of the year, by the erection of a small building on the site of the useless tread-mill, thereby affording additional accommodation; yet many important alterations remain to be done, in order to place the building in an efficient and proper state, both in reference to its security and fitness for the purposes of a prison.

Wages.

Remuneration for labour appears to have undergone no sensible change, while the metaire system, to which I alluded in my last Report, continues to exist, and payment for house-rent made, according to arrangement between the employer and employed.

In recapitulating the foregoing remarks, I beg to add that the people appear contented, quiet, and orderly; the colony continues particularly healthy, while the crops promise an abundant narvest; hence, under the blessing of Divine Providence, Dominica has, in all these respects, been a favoured island.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GEORGE MACDONALD,
Lieut.-Governor.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 21. (No. 40.) No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, Antigua,
June 7, 1847.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Montserrat for 1846, together with the Report accompanying it, from the President administering that Government.

Page 43. I have so lately addressed your Lordship in regard to the condition of this island that it seems unnecessary for me on the present occasion to trouble your Lordship on the subject, further than to remark that Mr. President Shiell appears to take a more favourable view of its prospects than I was led to form during my recent visit, and which I earnestly trust may be justified by the result. The President's long experience and intimate acquaintance with the past and present state of Montserrat afford him the means of arriving at, probably, a more correct estimate of its capabilities than my limited knowledge enabled me to do. His expectations seem to be founded, in a great degree, upon the successful working of the metayer system of cultivation, which is now being more frequently adopted; and we may reasonably anticipate that if by that or any other method the numerous estates now lying abandoned can be reclaimed, and more general advantage can be taken of the undoubted resources of the colony, considerable progress will be made in restoring this once flourishing and still beautiful island to its former wealth and prosperity.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 21.

Enclosure in No. 21.

REPORT of the MONTSERRAT BLUE BOOK for the Year 1846.

MR. BAYNES, in his Report of the Blue Book for the Year 1845, has so fully and amply enlarged upon every subject connected with the general statistics of the colony, that it would be only a repetition and waste of words if I were to attempt to write anything in addition to that able and valuable document, to which I must only pray a reference for the general and very useful information it conveys.

The metayer or metæ system, adverted to by Mr. Baynes in his Report, has made considerable progress since he left the government of the colony; many of the proprietory body, not having capital or funds to cultivate at their own expense their estates, have been compelled to resort to this system, allowing the labourers in some instances one-half of the produce made, in others one-third; and there are at this moment not less than twelve estates in this island in actual operation under this system of cultivation, so that there is every reasonable probability there will be an increase in the staple export of the island to what it has been for several preceding years, in consequence of those estates that were abandoned being brought again under cultivation.

The sensible remarks noticed by Mr. Baynes on the subject of emigration need scarcely be adverted to by me, were it not for the circumstance that since he has left the colony Her Majesty's enlightened Government have done away with the payment of all bounties on the removal of labonrers from one colony to another, and which has conferred the greatest boon on this island.

The facilities afforded to emigration to the insalubrious climate of Trinidad and British Guiana since the 1st of August, 1838, from having two vessels continually employed from this port in conveying away its labourers, would in a short time have denuded this little colony of its adult population, had it not been for the timely interference of Her Majesty's benevolent Government in putting a stop to so nefarious a traffic.

Being largely connected with the landed interest of the colony, I have much satisfaction in reporting, that since the prohibition matters have assumed a more healthy state, the labourers more settled in their habits, and apparently contented with being located on their respective estates. The population of the island for the year ending the 31st December, 1846, is 3336 males, 4029 females, total 7365; of which 3742 are employed in agriculture. Births, 223; marriages, 45; deaths, 119; manifesting an evident increase in its population.

The imports for the year from Great Britain is 2796*l.* 7*s.*; from the British West Indies, 11,264*l.* 15*s.*; from British North America, 1046*l.* 10*s.*; from the United States of America, 250*l.*; from Foreign States, 2609*l.* 12*s.*; making a total of 17,967*l.* 7*s.*; and showing a decrease of 8308*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* between the two years of 1845 and 1846. The exports for the year consist of 488 hogsheads, 150 tierces of sugar, 280 puncheons of molasses, 10 puncheons of rum, 230 barrels and 18 kegs of tamarinds, 127 barrels of potatoes, 145 barrels of charcoal, 267 head of cattle, 250 boat timbers, 10 boxes of succades, 3 boxes of arrowroot, 12 sets of firestones, and 84 barrels of terrace, which, at a moderate computation, may be valued at 14,317*l.* 2*s.*, making a decrease from the year 1845 of 4608*l.* 2*s.*; but this deficiency may be mainly attributed to the continuous floods of rain, with which the island was deluged for months, and which prevented the crop from being finished by the 1st of August, leaving a considerable portion of the canes to be manufactured during the present year.

Notwithstanding the island is and has been for months visited with a severe drought, to the extent of retarding considerably the ensuing crop, still there is every reason for congratulation in the apparent rising prosperity of the colony; and should it be vouchsafed, under Divine permission, to fructify the parched and arid lands with an abundance of refreshing showers, we may still indulge in the pleasing expectation that the ensuing year may prove prosperous, and compensate the proprietor of the soil for all his trouble and expense.

WM. SHIELL, President.

VIRGIN ISLES.

(No. 40.) No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, Antigua,
July 10, 1847,

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the past year, together with a copy of the report thereon, which I have received from the President administering that Government.

This book ought to have been forwarded at an earlier date, but I am informed by Mr. Hay that its preparation has been unavoidably delayed in conquence of a press of business in the office of the Colonial Secretary, on whom has been enjoined the importance of greater punctuality in the performance of the duty required of him.

Having on a late occasion communicated the sentiments in reference to the state of these islands, which a visit to them induced me to form, I abstain from troubling your Lordship with a repetition of them; but looking back to the Reports of former years, in general so condemnatory of the past, and so void of hope for the future, it is gratifying for me to be able to concur in the observations offered by Mr. Hay, both as regards the present more cheering aspect of affairs and the laudable exertions of the Legislature to devise and mature those measures of fiscal and other reforms, which the embarrassed public finances, and the depressed and retrograding state of the Colony have so long and so urgently demanded.

The causes that have operated to reduce these islands to the impoverished condition in which they have been for a number of years, and the various difficulties against which they have had to contend, are not unknown to Her Majesty's Government; and notwithstanding many of them are beyond the reach of legislative or executive influence, I unite with the President in cherishing the hope that the dawn of brighter days is opening on the Colony confided to his charge, and that, although it may not readily attain to former wealth and prosperity, the efforts now being made for its amelioration, backed by more energy and enterprize on the part of the proprietary body, cannot fail to be attended with favourable results.

However other interests may be affected by the course of events in these Colonies, no one can deny that the emancipated race, constituting the mass of the people, have been vastly benefited; and it is satisfactory to observe that the Virgin Islands form no exception: the lower orders appearing there, as elsewhere, to be peaceable, contented, and happy.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &. (Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

VIRGIN ISLES.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Virgin Islands, Tortola,
July 2, 1847.

SIR,

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 31, of the 31st ultimo, I have now the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1846.

My early Reports accompanying the Annual Returns contained such information as experience and observation enabled me, and I felt it my duty, to offer on the past and actual state and prospects of the Virgin Islands, pointing out the influences on the political, agricultural, and social interests which had brought the affairs of the colony to their depressed condition, and which have since impeded the introduction or working of any extensive measures of improvement in the local economy.

The subject of these embarrassments need not, for the present, be further brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government than is necessary for the statement that recent circumstances have encouraged in me (and I venture to think your Excellency will bear me out) the anticipation of an improvement in our affairs, which, if not so marked and prompt as could be desired, will be such an advance towards amelioration, by dint of willing efforts, as to give good hopes for the future.

The short period which has elapsed between my last Report and the date of the present Returns, has not been sufficient to admit of any material signs of advancement; but the honourable public spirit evinced by the legislative houses on the commencement of the session at the close of the year, and the useful character of the measures since introduced into the Legislature, afford grounds for trust that these hopes will be confirmed, as far as their realization lies within the scope of local legislation.

There is little room for comment on the Returns for the past year; but I proceed to offer such remarks as occur to me on reference to a few of the heads under which they are made.

Revenue and Expenditure.

There is a decrease in the revenue of about 363*l.*, partly occasioned by the diminished crops, the result of severe drought and continued unfavourable seasons, and partly, there is no doubt, by increased evasion of the revenue laws.

The actual amount of the revenue would seem to indicate impaired means, but the fact that a balance (or nearly so) of the revenue and expenditure has been secured, instead of the large arrears and increasing debt which formerly appeared against the country, is a solid subject for congratulation.

Public Works.

Under this head the establishment of a new Poor House and Infirmary deserves special notice.

Liberal provisions had for some years past been made for the support of the poor, but the place hitherto used for their reception was small and ill-adapted to the purpose.

The present building is commodious and well situated, and the measures taken to provide for the care and maintenance of the poor and infirm are altogether highly creditable to the colony.

Education.

The liberality of the grant by the colonial legislature compared with the local means for the purposes of education, has been noticed in former reports.

The peculiar difficulties which have been found elsewhere to obstruct the progress of general education among the labouring classes are in full operation in this colony. The people, however, are willing to receive, I cannot say anxious to obtain, education for their children, as proved by the fact that, while the schools under the superintendence severally of the ministers of the Established Church and the missionaries of the Wesleyan Society are well attended; any attempt to exact payment, however small, has been hitherto, as a general rule, found to fail.

The people having been accustomed to obtain instruction gratuitously for their children, this was to be anticipated.

There is no doubt that, as with other things, so it is with education—the sacrifice made for the attainment enhances the value of the object gained; but an appreciation of the value of education sufficient to induce the negro to make a sacrifice of his means for the education of his children cannot be expected from the present generation of the emancipated classes in these colonies; it must be the gradual result of actual and full experience by the people themselves of the practical benefits arising from the acquirement of knowledge; it must be the result of a better educated state of the mass of the population; and this must be a work of time, aided, where possible, by increased facilities and encouragement to the people to avail themselves of every means of improving the moral, intellectual, and, I would add, physical condition of the juvenile population.

Imports and Exports.

The returns of imports for 1846 show a small increase of no consequence beyond those of the previous year. The exports show a decrease of nearly 7000*l.* This is entirely accounted for by the shortness of the crops, occasioned by drought and the consequent diminution of exported produce.

The agricultural condition of the colony, it will be seen, is most unsatisfactory, and I fear that the prospects of the present year, though at one time very promising, have been seriously impaired by a very severe season of drought, under which these islands are now suffering.

It is pleasing, however, to add that the peasantry continue steady and industrious in their habits; a good understanding between employer and labourer, with few exceptions, is maintained; offences are comparatively unfrequent; and crime of a serious nature is almost unknown.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency J. M. Higginson, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) E. H. Drummond Hay.

NEVIS.

(No. 29.) No. 23.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to Earl Grey.

Government House, Antigua,
May 27, 1847.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Island of Nevis for the year 1846, together with a copy of the Report thereon furnished by the President administering that government.

It will be found that Mr. Shortland takes a very promising view of the condition and prospects of the colony over which he presides; and I see no reason to question the correctness of the conclusion at which he has arrived. Although the proprietary body may not cherish such sanguine expectations as those entertained by him, they by no means give way to despondency. Alive to the exigencies of their position, they feel that the crisis demands extraordinary exertions; and they evince a determination to confront their difficulties with an energy and spirit which, there is good reason to hope, will be rewarded by the measure of success that they deserve.

The President very properly notices the inefficient state of the Church of England schools, which must be a subject of regret to all who are interested in the enlightenment of the rising generation. I have conceived it to be my duty to communicate for the consideration of the Lord Bishop of the diocese, that portion of the Report which refers to this very important question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

(No. 24.) Enclosure in No. 23.

Government House, Nevis,
May 14, 1847.

Sir,

I regret that any delay should have arisen in completing the Blue Book, which I have now the honour to forward, but it was so imperfect, when first presented to me by the Colonial Secretary, that I was necessitated to return it to him for revision. I hope it may afford some useful information, although I am unable to direct your Excellency's attention to any new incident, one year succeeds the other with so little to denote a difference. It is gratifying however to reflect, that this sameness proceeds more from the general contentment and prosperity of the people, than from any absence of enterprize, and however unwilling the landholder may be to admit any participation in this prosperity, still, encouraged by the prospect of an abundant harvest and the late measures of Her Majesty's Government, he seems determined to enter into the apparently unequal competition with the cultivators of slave grown produce, which must shortly ensue, with that energy which cannot fail of success.

The prosperous state of the finance and the small amount of taxation, is a very favourable circumstance at this important juncture.

The revenue collected during the year 1846 amounts to the sum of five thousand three hundred and thirty-nine pounds, and three pence, (5339*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*), and has been principally derived from taxes on imports. The export Act expired in the month of May, since which the landholder has been relieved from any direct taxation.

The expenditure for the same period amounts to the sum of four thousand one hundred and seventy-six pounds, six shillings, and eleven pence; and the balance in the hands of the Treasurer, on the 31st of December, after the discharge of all liabilities, was one thousand one hundred and sixty-two pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence (1162*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*)

NEVIS.

1845.
Sugar Exported, 2350 Hds.
Molasses . . 892 Pun.
1846.
Sugar Exported, 1954 Hds.
Molasses . . 777 Pun.
The crop of 1845 was about an average.

The quantity of colonial produce exported was under the average; but the crop, when compared relatively with other islands, considering the season, was by no means unfavourable.

The population amounts to about ten thousand, and is gradually increasing. Emigration to other islands has nearly ceased.

The rate of wages remains the same as in former years; althongh more labourers could be employed advantageously, I do not hear much complaint of the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number to take off the crop.

The labouring classes generally are in a very satisfactory state; I have remarked some improvement in the style of cottage in the course of erection, and were they assured of a more certain tenure in the lands which they occupy, I doubt not still greater improvements would soon ensue. I am led to this conclusion by observing the desire manifested to purchase small spots, and by the improved appearance of such small tenements, and I am convinced, that nothing would tend so materially to benefit the landed proprietor as the establishment of a judicious system of letting small tenements on leases for terms of years, prescribing in the lease a system of husbandry suited to the particular spot, and making residence in all instances obligatory. By these means the tenant and the labourer would become distinct parties and much of the inconvenience at present experienced, from the indiscriminate letting of land would be avoided.

The tenant farmer would be incited to industry by the desire of increasing his tenancy, and the labourer with the hope of one day becoming a tenant.

The education of the labouring classes is making most satisfactory progress under the vigilant superintendence of the Wesleyans; but your Excellency will be sorry to observe by a reference to the Returns furnished by the Ministers of the Established Church, that no progress has been made towards increased efficiency in the Church schools; in fact, in most instances, they have little more than a nominal existence; even Sunday schools, it would appear, are disregarded by all except the Rector of St. James. Many private schools are springing up, and in justice to the negroes, I am bound to state, that no unwillingness to obtain instruction for their children, prevails on their part.

The year has been characterized by an absence of crime of an aggravated nature, but I am sorry to add that quarrels amongst the negroes, attended in some instances by violent assaults have been frequent so as to call for increased rigour on the part of the magistrates in awarding punishment in such cases. I am unable to report to your Excellency any progress in Public Works; two Acts however were passed during the Session, one appropriating the sum of one thousand and fifty pounds, (1050*l.*), for repairing the various churches and chapels injured by the earthquake, the other authorizes the expenditure of three thousand pounds for building a Court House and other public offices.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY SHORTLAND.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief, Antigua.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Earl GREY.

Government House, Demerâra,
MY LORD, March 25, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1846, to which I have added a supplement, comprehending general statistics of British Guiana between 1st January, 1838, and 31st December, 1846.

Under the head Taxes and Duties stands the Ordinance No. 6, anno 1846. by Court of Policy, combined with financial representatives. On the 31st December, 1845, there was a balance in the Colonial Treasury of 264,547 dols., 40 cts., with very little difference of taxation from 1846; this amount arose from accumulation of unexpended votes.

The Ordinance No. 24, anno 1844, page 8, established a general Tariff of Fees; part of these fees goes to the Colonial Treasury, part to legal men, part to the payment of civil officers.

It is more than probable that the Ordinance will be amended, when it is clearly proved that the fees are insufficient for service done; as yet no complaint has been made other than by the marshals.

In pages 11 to 33 will be found the Revenue and Expenditure, with comparative statement of 1845; the excess of import duties of 1846 over 1845 amounts to 109,685 dols., 51 cts.; this has been fortunate, otherwise from the great expense of immigration there would have been a deficit, where, notwithstanding large and unusual calls, there is a considerable balance for the public service.

By the non-payment of notes of hand not then due, given by planters for the introduction of labourers from Madeira, there is some balance against the colony, to be found at foot of page 28, which will be repaid.

Part of the loan for erection of bridges over the Mahaica, Mahaicony, Abarie and Canjé rivers, was raised; but as the interest of this money cannot yet be paid, because the bridges are not all erected, the interest which is due beyond receipts of the Mahaica bridge, the only one completed, appears as expenditure for 1846, being under guarantee of the colony.

The local revenue and expenditure gives an excess of the latter over former of 54,198*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

Military Expenditure, page 43, comes under general estimate of Ways and Means, being table money for the officers in garrison; some small item is given there for keeping the arms of militia in repair in George Town by the police, in whose charge they are in perfect order ready for any emergency; and by an armourer at New Amsterdam.

The Commissariat Return, in page 48, is entirely independent of the civil Government.

The remarks, in page 52, on Public Works need no addition, beyond my opinion that the whole system of keeping up roads must be changed; the subject was one on which I did not think it expedient to touch in my address to Combined Court, considering the colonial members fully aware of the defects of that system.

The list of Ordinances, in page 56 and following, passed in 1846, is given; each has been commented on by the Attorney-General and myself.

The Legislature "Court of Policy," page 68, has had many long and weary sittings during the year, and has deserved well of the community for the diligence and zeal bestowed on the work before them.

It is certainly not a popularly constituted body, yet, in this community, it will be difficult to find men able and willing to give their time to public matters. If the members of the Court of Policy and Financial Body were for the counties, and not for the whole province, it might save time, and the college of Kiezers might then be abolished.

I have no remark on the list of public officers, page 72; but to reiterate the

BRITISH GUIANA.

necessity of a retiring pension to all ranks in the government except the Governor, whose place is not permanent.

In page 83, Mr. Holmes is noted as substitute for Mr. Southey, who has returned since the close of 1846 to his duties.

At foot of page 86, is noted the abolition of the place of Sworn Accountant, his place is supplied by Auditors of Accounts, the substitution has worked well, and has given great satisfaction.

Registrar's Office, page 90. The fees of this office are divided into so many shares, 18 of which are reserved for the Colonial Treasury; if there is sufficient from the unreserved shares to pay the salaries of the officers, the new office of Clerk of the Supreme Court of Common Justice will be paid out of the reserved shares. Business is much more correctly and speedily transacted under the amended Bill than under the old system.

Ordinance No. 1, 1847.

The mode of receiving fees in the Registrar's Office has produced regularity never before known; no party can have a judicial paper until the fees have been received at the Colonial Treasury, with receipt stamped by the Treasurer.

The Registrar's Office at Berbice, page 92, has also benefited by the new system.

The Marshal's Office, page 94, in consequence of the absence of Mr. Hammill the Provost Marshal, and suspension of his *locum tenens* has been placed under Mr. Turton.

The Ordinance No. 1, anno 1846, declares the Sheriffs shall be, on the occurrence of vacancies in the offices, replaced by barristers of two years' standing.

When vacancies do occur, it may be possible to get a respectable barrister to fill the office of High Sheriff, whose salary is 1400*l.* including contingencies, but no barrister of reputation will be found to accept the offices of Sheriffs of Essequibo and Berbice on the salaries now received.

Page 100, Police. This efficient force will probably be considerably augmented.

Page 102, Gaols. I do not think the gaols are sufficiently penal, it was a remark by Mr. Daughtry. the Inspector of Prisons in Jamaica, when on a mission here, that the idle and recidive were too well fed and the labour too light.

Page 104. The Customs a separate department not under the control of the Executive, further, than that appointments and leaves of absence are notified to the Governor.

The payment of Superintendent of Out-door Aid Waiters and his aids, is however under the Governor's warrant, signed by the collector or responsible officer, pages 104-106.

Page 108. The Receiver-General's Office (Colonial Treasurer) requires no remark.

There appears a disposition to reduce the salary of Financial Accomptant on a plea which savours of disappointment, that a more favoured candidate was not selected. I trust, however, a better feeling will prevail in Combined Court, for the original salary, to which it is proposed to reduce Mr. Lowenfeeld, was increased, not on account of long services but on account of increase of work, which continues increasing.

The Harbour Master's department, page 110, is very efficient.

The Hospital statistics furnish ample information on the state of efficiency of the several establishments in British Guiana, page 112.

Page 116. The Boards of Church and Poor Funds of the three counties are liberally constituted.

Page 118. The Post Office establishment at George Town is not sufficiently paid.

Page 120. The office of Weigh Master a modern creation. It is confined to a chief and two or three aids. The duties are weighing and gauging goods for exportation or sale in the colony. This office ought to be thrown open to competition.

Page 122. The Pilotage Committee is elected by the Court of Policy. It is an efficient unpaid body, and has generally been useful. Its accounts are periodically subjected to examination by Court of Policy. Its expenses are con-

siderable; paid by shipping dues. It has the superintendence of lighthouse, light-ship, navigation buoys along the coast and up the river Essequibo; nomination of pilots.

The Berbice Pilotage Committee have not such funds to support its light-ship and other necessary expenses; it requires help occasionally from the Combined Court. Both these establishments are highly useful.

Page 124. Superintendents and Post-holders are under-paid; they, except the one for the Corantyne, barely eke out an existence.

Page 126. The office of Agent-General of Immigration is daily becoming more important. I am disposed to recommend that he should have the means, in the shape of travelling expenses, to visit the different estates where immigrants are located periodically and at uncertain times, with sufficient powers to check and redress abuses, and report on what he observes.

Page 128. The office of Crown Surveyor and Commissary of Population united has been efficient. The census returns furnished have received the acknowledgments of Lord Stanley, though it is very difficult to obtain the succession of census returns; it may be necessary to amend the Ordinance.

The Crown Surveyor examines all applications for grants of land, wood-cutting licences, keeps registers of the whole, certifies as to the propriety or impropriety of the grant or licence.

Page 130. Commissaries of Taxation, a late creation, are to collect taxes, have supervision over shop and liquor licences, prevent smuggling. They are becoming efficient, and will probably be continued by the Combined Court.

Page 132. Vice-Admiralty Court; little business is done there; some few cases of smuggling are from time to time brought before the Chief Justice.

Page 134. Penal Settlement. This creditable establishment does not yet pay its expenses, though, perhaps, taking into consideration the value of work done and of buildings erected, the balance might be said to be in favour of the settlement. My opinion is that the severity of work and discipline might be increased, and that chains should be the certain accompaniment of the treatment of the hardened villain.

Page 136. The Hospital and Health establishments of Berbice are effective. The medical men experienced and of high reputation.

Page 138 The receipts of the Administrator-General's Office of Demerara and Essequibo are considerable. The head deserves his gains; his subordinates are liberally paid by him; but his personal labour and supervision have been unwearied; all tending to the benefit of the public as well as to himself.

The same office at Berbice is not so profitable; but probably, when the affairs of the office are permanently settled, the necessity for clerks will cease to exist.

Page 142. The Lazaretto is almost tenantless. It is at present in discussion with some medical men whether, what is ordinarily called leprosy, is contagious. It is necessary, however, to continue the office of Superintendant.

Pages 144, 146, 148. The Episcopalian Protestant establishment is, with the exception of the bishop, and some part of the salary of the curates, entirely at the cost of the colony.

The Church establishment is complete, with the exception of the Rectors of All Saints, New Amsterdam, and of St. Paul's, Demerara; their places, however, are permanently supplied. There was an absentee rector from Essequibo, Trinity Parish, who has returned. A resident minister supplied his place while absent. The Governor receives no report from the Mission at Bartika.

Page 152. The Scotch parishes are not filled. There is only one assistant minister.

I have no report of the Supinaam Mission, nor from the Dutch Reformed Church at Fort Island.

Page 156. The Roman Catholic establishment has no other acknowledged head in George Town than Mr. Reid, a catechist. There are Roman Catholic priests who have not had their names officially named to me.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The priests at New Amsterdam and the Moroco have been gazetted, the latter of long standing.

Page 158. The Wesleyan ministers are not so numerous as the London missionaries; they follow their calling humbly and religiously, and make considerable progress. One of them, Mr. Cleeve, is a seceder from the Episcopalian Church, and carried with him a large congregation.

The name of Plymouth Brethren is rejected by Mr. Strong, who has been successful in gaining followers; he refuses the character of reverend; he teaches Christianity according to his own doctrines, and is a well meaning man; a seceder from the Church of England.

Page 178. The miscellaneous expenditure has been large in payment of emigration.

Education requires great amelioration, and till more efficient teachers, and till there be less jealousy amongst Christians, will not be carried out in the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Page 226. The imports which were so large in 1846 have fallen off considerably during the first quarter of 1847. There have been large reshipments of provisions to Ireland, and few entries to replace those shipments.

Page 236. Average prices must be generally taken at a minimum, and every necessary is augmenting in price.

Page 245. Gaols speak for themselves.

I have now to conclude with referring your Lordship to other previous information of the state of the colony, contained in preceding Blue Books, in my answers to the questions sent out by the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society in 1844, in Despatches descriptive of the face of the country, and of excursions I have made on the public service. I shall be happy if my information has been useful, and that what has been written here, and in Supplement accompanying the Blue Book, be approved.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

SUPPLEMENT to the BLUE BOOK of 1846.

In forwarding the Blue Book for 1846, I accompany it with statistical information obtained from the various departments of the civil Government, embracing the period from 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846, inclusive, under the following heads:—

1st. Revenue and expenditure.
2nd. Customs, exports and imports.
3rd. Cases criminal and civil from the Registrars of Demerara and Berbice.
4th. Sheriffs' reports of cases adjudicated in the inferior criminal courts of the three counties of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice.
5th. Expenses of gaols, numbers of prisoners confined in each, number of sick, deaths.
6th. Return of cases adjudicated by George Town police magistrate, amount of fines. City estimate and expenses.
7th. Hospital statistics, summary of, George Town, Berbice.
8th. Police.
9th. Amount paid to schools.
10th. Amount to poor.
11th. Penal settlement from its establishment.
12th. Harbour-masters, shipping and tonnage reports, Demerara and Berbice rivers.
13th. Immigration Agent General's return from 1835 to 1846, of emigrants to this colony.
14th. Number of estates in cultivation, nominal list, ditto abandoned.
15th. Statement of the Administrator General of Demerara and Essequibo, and Berbice, in regard to trusts under their care.

No. 1. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

Enclosure No. 1.
Page 72.

Under this are included separate returns, First, a table of revenue under the different heads of Blue Book, from 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846, with separate remarks. Second. Annual estimate for each year, with amount of expenditure for each year. Third. Surplus revenue on certain items, in 1846, above the estimate.

The annual estimate for each year, shows that in the years 1841 and 1845, provision was made for emigration purposes; it is divided into four columns:—

1st. Amount provided per estimate.
2nd. Amount actually expended.
3rd. Surplus less expended than estimate.
4th. Deficiency, or more expended than provided for.

The first three columns are easily understood, the fourth requires explanation.

In framing the ways and means, the Combined Court takes into consideration the unexpended votes of preceding year, and frames its ways and means in relation to them—accumulated votes of one year paid out in another, swells the expenditure, as seen in column 4, where in 1846, 395,740 dollars have been expended, chiefly for emigration purposes, more than the estimate.

The expenses for emigration purposes since bounties were paid in 1841, are in a separate table.

The table No. 3, though it will be generally introduced in the Blue Book, is introduced here to show at once the large surplus received in 1846, over the estimated product of import and other duties, a reduction of the import duties on articles of primary necessity will no doubt be made, but on liquor licences, wine and spirit duties, there can be no hardship to retain them as they stand.

No. 2.—*Customs.*

Enclosure No. 2.
Page 75.

The Customs' Report shows that, although a great part of 1845 was subjected to drought, yet the exports of staples were greater than in 1844: and, contrary to certain predictions, the diminution in the export of sugar in 1846 was only one-third of that of 1845; the deficiency of rum exported was nearly one-half of the quantity exported in the latter year; that of molasses only one-eighth; that of coffee is almost nil, when compared with 1838, and it is gradually going out of cultivation: the cultivation of cotton is extinct.

The official value of imports is considerably larger in 1846 than in 1845, exceeds that of 1838, is only inferior to that of 1839, and far exceeds that of the years 1842-3-4.

The surplus customs, which in 1838 produced only 8401*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, doubled in amount in 1839 and 1840, began to fall off in 1841, and continued in a diminishing rate till 1846, when there has been a large increase.

No. 3.—*Criminal and Civil Cases from the Registrars of Demerara and Berbice.*

Enclosure No. 3.
Page 76.

The returns for the counties Demerara and Essequibo present a large increase in 1846 over every previous year in criminal cases: those of Berbice a remarkable absence of crime.

Atrocious crimes have, however, been more common within the last three years; but condemnations to death rare: and sentences are, in my opinion, infinitely more lenient here than in the mother country.

The returns relating to the cases before the Supreme and Inferior Civil Courts show that litigation in the Supreme Civil Court of Demerara and Essequibo was greatest in 1842, that it continued in diminution until the end of 1845, since which it has increased: litigation was greatest before the Supreme Civil Court at Berbice in 1840; in 1846 it is one-half less than in 1845.

The cases brought before the Inferior Civil Court of Demerara and Essequibo, though more numerous in 1846 than in the two preceding years, are nearly 50 per cent. fewer than in the intervening years from 1838.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The cases before the Inferior Civil Court of Berbice are fewer in 1846 than in any other previous year since 1838.

The increased jurisdiction given by Ordinance No. 2, anno 1846, to the Inferior Civil Court has proved most beneficial.

Enclosure No. 4.

No. 4.—*Return of Cases adjudicated in the Inferior Criminal Courts of the three Counties, Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice.*

Page 79.

This return, under one head, shows the smallest number of trials in Demerara to have occurred in 1840; the largest in 1842; diminished in 1844-5; with considerable increase in 1846.

The largest number of trials in Essequibo took place in 1839, since which there has been a great tendency to decrease. In 1846 the number of trials is only 53, when in 1839 it amounted to 345.

In 1839 there were fewer trials at Berbice than in any succeeding year; but 1845 and 1846 show a great tendency to decrease.

Enclosure No. 5.

No. 5.—*Gaols, &c.*

Page 80.

The number of prisoners in the gaol of George Town, under sentence by Supreme Criminal Court, was largest in 1843; in the years 1844-5-6 there has been a decrease of from 15 to 20 per cent. The first four years, 1838 to 1841 inclusive, present fewer crimes.

The largest number of prisoners under sentence by Inferior Criminal Court, is seen to have occurred in 1842, since which there has been a tendency to decrease. There is, however, an excess in 1846 over 1845.

Fewer sentences by stipendiary magistrates seem to have been given in 1844. The large number appearing in 1846 may be accounted for by the summary convictions under Ordinance No. 19, anno 1845, many of which would have emanated formerly from the Inferior Criminal Court.

The annual expenses have been much less in 1845 and 1846 than in the great majority of the previous years from 1838, probably owing to a larger number of prisoners being sent to the penal settlement.

The expense of erecting and improving the gaol of George Town may, considering the size and solidity of the buildings, be considered trifling.

The report from New Amsterdam shows that a larger number of persons have been imprisoned under sentence of Inferior Courts and magistrates in 1846 than in any previous year.

The sentences to imprisonment by stipendiary magistrates are remarkably few in number.

The number of patients in the hospital of George Town gaol averages about $1\frac{3}{4}$ per diem. The expenses for treatment are not given for the years 1838 to 1841 inclusive, owing to the books of the then keeper, Mr. Horan, afterwards at the penal settlement and there deceased, not having been found. The hospital expenses for those years have been included in the general expenses of the gaol.

The annual expense of the patients in hospital, from 1842 to 1846, is trifling. The healthiness of the location is shown by the absence of acute disease and mortality, inasmuch as the per centage of deaths, five only in nine years, is smaller than in the ordinary average of life.

The expenses of patients in the hospital at the Berbice Gaol, are included in the general expenditure of the gaol. The largest number of admissions was in the years 1839 and in 1842; the smallest number in 1846: the deaths out of 407 patients only three.

The gaols in the rural districts are Caponey, on the Arabian coast; Essequibo; Wakenhaam, on the island of that name; Mahaica, at the village so called, on the east coast, Demerara. They are all well built, in healthy localities, large enough for all probable wants, and have unfortunately none of that gloom that ought to be manifest in places of confinement.

The annexed return shows the number of prisoners in each gaol during the years 1838 to 1846, specifying the number sent for trial, either to supreme or inferior criminal courts, and that of prisoners under sentence of stipendiary magistrate; with mortality.

The Police Ordinance No. 19, for the rural districts, came into operation the latter end of 1845, and by increasing the jurisdiction of stipendiary magistrates, has considerably increased the number of prisoners; the small number of previous sentences by stipendiary magistrates under Orders in Council, proves that employer and employed arranged their disputes without much difficulty. Ordinance No. 19, gives summary powers for offences which previously were brought, or could only be brought, before the inferior criminal courts.

The cost of each of these gaols, the annual expense for the officers, and that of the keep of the prisoners, comprehended in this return, will show that the salaries have generally far exceeded the cost of feeding the prisoners, though the diet is liberal.

The return of prisoners at various times on the sick-list in the hospitals of the rural district gaols, is given to show the general absence of mortality amongst those confined. Mahaica presents the fewest number of patients; the diseases must have been trifling, though some of the gaols show a large hospital return; for the extra expense under the command of the medical attendants is excessively small; often nil.

No. 6.—*Return of Cases adjudicated by George Town Police Magistrate—Amount of Fines—City Estimates and Expences, &c.* Enclosure No. 6.

This return is accompanied by a letter of police magistrate giving probable causes for a large increase of cases brought before him; the principal one, that the population of George Town is greatly increased. Including thefts with breaches of the peace, the per centage to the supposed population not more than five per cent.; or separating the species of offences, not more than 10 per cent, excepting in the years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, when, according to the ratio of population, that of offences is larger than in the succeeding four years. Page 83.

The fines levied at this office are given; they nearly pay the salary of the magistrate, though in 1846 there has been a decrease.

It must be borne in mind that a large number of offences brought before the police magistrate are repetitions by the same offenders. Brawls, indecencies of act and speech, are common subjects of adjudication; some twenty or thirty vagabonds of both sexes are repeatedly brought up for repetition of offence; nothing cures them. The same may be said of pilferers; they are so well known to the police, that a theft is scarcely committed, the locality averred, when the capture of the offender is assured. The inside of a prison for a few days, where the work is light, and food not scanty, has no terrors for this class of the community.

Of actual cases, in 1846, there was a decrease of 24; but the convictions for theft alone shows an increase in 1846.

The city estimates and expences, with returns of cattle slaughtered; mortality. The first, in detail, come annually before the Court of Policy; lighting, paving, draining, cokers or sluices, weeding and cleaning, form the bulk of the expences. Buildings newly erected have a short exemption from taxes. In 1838, when taxation was two-thirds more than in 1844-5-6, the revenue was almost equal to the expenditure, taxation was reduced in the four last years, and certain aid was given by the Legislature. The result has been to attempt to establish a right, and not ask a favour.

No. 7.—*Hospital Statistics, summary of, George Town and Berbice.* Enclosure No. 7.

The Surgeon-General's return shows a very large increase of admissions in the Colonial Hospital for 1846, occasioned by the influx of emigrants from the rural districts. The average per centage of deaths from 1838 to 1842 inclusive was 10 and a fraction, while the per centage of 1842 is greater than that of 1846. From 1843 to 1846 inclusive the per centage of deaths is only 11 and a fraction, though the per centage of 1846 amounts to 15. In 1839 the per centage of deaths amongst the white troops in garrison was 67. Page 85.

The expenses of the hospital were greatest in 1842 and 1846, the first being equally remarkable for the large number of emigrant patients, with the last year.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Small-pox Hospital, since its establishment, averages 10 per cent of deaths.

The Lunatic Asylum, eight per cent.

The Seaman's Hospital averages 15 per cent of deaths amongst the patients since its first establishment; but the years 1839, 1841, 1842, were of fatal malignancy of fever; since which, to end of 1846, the deaths to admissions are not six per cent.

The expence of these hospitals is of course in ratio of admissions; the liberal advances towards this, and other necessary public purposes, evince what I have said elsewhere, that in no country does the public more benefit by taxation than here, where so much is paid back from the Colonial Treasury to the public in the shape of maintenance of useful institutions.

The Berbice Hospital at New Amsterdam.

The return of mortality is annexed. The largest number of burials in New Amsterdam has occurred in 1846. In this return there is a difference in burial fees, a distinction against pure blood.

The fees of burial to the sexton in George Town is common to all—5½ dolls.

Enclosure No. 8.

Page 89.

No. 8.—*Police.*

Previous to the 16th of February, 1843, the police was under the command of Mr. Crichton. The confusion of the office registers was the result of the misconduct of the clerk. The books were withheld by this person, and could not be recovered. This at least is the excuse made for the absence of record previous to the appointment of the present Inspector-General of Police.

I have often had occasion to praise the conduct of the whole corps; the discipline is perfect, they are drilled as soldiers; all know the use of the rifle and musket, and have given proof of determined courage, in many instances, where desperate resistance has been made. The Inspector-General has a detective police taken from the most intelligent of his men; and has, by this, almost a certainty of clue to every sort of crime.

The return contains in the first column the total number of persons arrested. In the second, prisoners committed to charge of police. In the third, those locked up for the night and discharged. The second and third columns form the total of the first.

Enclosure No. 9.

Page 89.

No. 9.—*Amount paid to Schools.*

From the variety of religious sects, it is difficult to obtain correct information. The annexed return shows the head money, two dollars paid under certificate of the minister of the parish, in the rural districts, for the instructors, annually.

While this return gives some sort of data for the education of members of the established churches, yet information cannot be obtained from certain classes of sectarians. There are numerous private schools in George Town; many estate schools exist, but there is unwillingness or indifference to sending in educational returns.

The religious jealousies will, I fear, long prevent the adoption of any general system of education, and particularly one combining in-door with out-door schooling.

I encouraged an attempt made by the Rev. Thomas Bell some three years ago, at New Amsterdam, to unite agricultural instruction with in-door education. Considerable interest was taken at first in this novel experiment; but I found it in decay at my last visit to New Amsterdam, and I know nothing of its present efficiency.

The ease with which designing persons fill the minds of the labourers with suspicions of the motives which cause the establishment of a new system of education, will, for some time at least, militate against its success in this colony.

Sectarianism, or rather a difference of creeds and forms of worship, which spread over the vast population of Great Britain, is of little result there, except the wholesome one of exciting further exertions on the part of the Church of England to preserve its followers from dissent, does infinite mischief here. not only by deadening Christian charity, but by giving political in addition to

spiritual power to all who choose to use the former, for the advancement of their own tenets—twelve different systems of the Christian religion, amidst a population of 120,000 persons; two only of those systems, the Episcopalians and Wesleyans, are under express rules of conduct, the former subject to the diocesan, the latter to the Parent Society. In no instance have the latter made any movement except a spiritual one. It was a remarkable fact, that, in the insurrection of 1823, not one of the Wesleyan congregation was involved in it. The Parent Society confine their missionaries to their spiritual calling; and by so doing, merit every consideration of the Government.

Your Lordship will read in the annexed return, that in 1846 the sum of 2,517*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, or 12,083 dolls., was paid from the Colonial Treasury for education in the three counties, which, at 2 dolls. per head, gives 6,041 persons in schools, independent of those in the unpaid schools.

No. 10.—*Amounts paid to the Poor.*

Enclosure No. 10

Page 90.

The gradual increase of the population of George Town has multiplied beyond all belief the numbers of persons on the lists of the Board of Church and Poor's Funds. That which was nil in 1838, has, in 1846, amounted to 6,145*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, of which, however, a part is expended in the maintenance of 93 paupers in an almshouse.

70 males.
20 females.
1 boy.
2 girls.

The amount paid to the poor of New Amsterdam is included in the expences of the Asylum. Pauperism does appear to exist in Berbice. During six out of nine years no payment has been made for paupers; the largest amount, in 1842, 31*l.* 8*s.*; reduced to 18*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* in 1844; in 1846, to 8*l.* During the first five years, from 1838 to 1842 inclusive, there were no paupers out of George Town. In the county of Demerara, the sums granted in 1843-4-5 were trifling, but have doubled in 1846.

No sums were paid for the poor of Essequibo from 1838 to 1840 inclusive, very trifling in 1841, they were largest in 1845, and have considerably diminished.

The payments to the poor are based on lists furnished by the vestries and the minister of the parish, containing name, age, disease, or incapacity, and sum required, for each, to the Commissioners, under Ordinance No. 15, anno 1839, on whose signature the warrant is signed by the executive.

No. 11.—*Penal Settlement from Establishment.*

Enclosure No. 11.

Page 90.

This has been the subject of more than one despatch. Great mildness has been hitherto shown to the convicts; and the labour, until the erection of the saw-platforms, can scarcely be called coercive; but the regularity of it has some effect on a portion of the convicts who cannot there abstain from labour as when out of prison, at will.

In my despatch No. 40, dated the 27th of February, I have spoken of the too cheerful aspect of the Penal Settlement. There are no terrors in the surrounding scenery, where the eye can rest on broad swift-flowing rivers, numerous islands with foliage to the water's edge, and self-formed lakes as the rivers meet, in their various windings, bounded by undulated low heights where rock and foliage unite to form a landscape. The site is in every way healthy; one death only from disease, though two or three by accidents. So trifling are the cases, that the records of the resident surgeon have not been thought of in the annexed Report.

In June, 1842, the first penal gang was sent there. In 1844-5, there were fewer convicts than in the two preceding years. The number is increased in 1846, but in very small ratio over 1843, though our population is larger now than in the latter year.

The crimes and numbers for each crime are in a separate table, page 2 of annexed Report from the Superintendant.

The revenue and expenditure is given in page 3, with explanation in that and page 4.

In page 5, and following pages, is a detailed statement of the revenue from 1844 to 1846, where credit is given for work performed, for provisions grown and used in diminution of general expense, and materials delivered for general purposes.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The capabilities of the locality are such, and such the probable profits even to the colony, from the labour of the convicts, that I still regret my suggestion was not adopted by the Legislature, of making it general to the West Indies.

Though the Lazaretto on Cow or Caow Island is not mentioned in this Report, it is in some degree under the superintendance of the Superintendant of the Penal Settlement, and, with little aid elsewhere, was the work of the convicts. It is almost empty, although calculated to hold 60 or 70 of the afflicted. This establishment, however, has tended to prevent the very general exposure of leprosy, as was the case before the Leper Ordinance was enacted.

Enclosure No. 12. No. 12.—*Harbour Master's Shipping and Tonnage Reports, Demerara and Berbice Rivers.*

Page 92. The return for Demerara River shows no falling off in the number of vessels from 1838 to 1846. The largest amount of tonnage was in 1845; the largest number of vessels in 1846, with very small diminution of tonnage, but larger than in any other year. There will be a discrepancy in the tonnage, as quoted by the Customs, owing to certain vessels being included in the Harbour Masters' return, left out in the Customs' returns.

The Report of the Harbour Master of Berbice shows a larger tonnage in 1838 than in any other succeeding year. The tonnage and number of vessels entering the river began to decrease in 1841, until the year 1846, when the number of vessels has been greater than in any previous year, though the tonnage is less than in 1838 and 1840, accounted for in the Harbour Masters' Report.

Enclosure No. 13. No. 13.—*Immigration Agent-General's Return, from* 1835 *to* 1846, *of Immigrants in this Colony.*

Page 93. Though the Immigration Returns have been regularly forwarded to your Lordship's department, it is expedient to recapitulate the numbers introduced at various times, since it first became a question to the planters,

The annexed return dates as far back as 1835, and includes the year 1846. The Agent-General has been at some pains to ascertain the places whence the immigrants came, and, for the earlier years, has had to seek information from private as well as public documents.

It appears by this return that a total, errors excepted, of labourers introduced into this colony, either at the expence of private persons or under bounty, amounts to 33,852.

It has been impracticable to ascertain the number of deaths, or of those who have quitted the colony; many have naturally enough returned to their own country; and, of the Coolies introduced in 1838, twenty or thirty only remained here, exclusive of deaths.

Notwithstanding deaths and departures, there has been a large addition to the population in the last 12 years; but the records of the Colonial Office show that independent villages and purchases must have abstracted continuous labour from all the estates; nor can we wonder at it, nor regret it—it is one of the happy features of this country, that emancipation has brought with it the most perfect independence of action and mode of existence, paving the way to the rising generation of an intermediate class of society, either of agriculturists or commercial men.

It is a favorite theme of those who call themselves the peculiar guardians of the welfare, rights, and liberties of the newly emancipated labourers, to inveigh against the introduction of strangers at the expence of the community, inasmuch as the large mass of the people incur the risk of reduction of wages.

It is well known that the planters have been forced by circumstances to pay largely for very inefficient work; the Creole labourers were the masters in the labour market; the planters, unwisely, in 1842, attempted to remedy this, not by firmness in the economy of their estates, and by improved modes of agriculture, but by combination, in which they failed; the wages had increased from one guilder in 1838, to half-a-dollar. I believe in most locations the

only result of late immigration has been that, if a task is not properly done, the labourer must carry his industry elsewhere.

A singular proof has been given within the last few days, of the means afforded to the Creole labourers of saving money, let the labour be paid less or more.

An estate on the west bank of Demerara river is an instance.

The circumstances of this estate, called Dem Amstel, were brought to the notice of your Lordship's predecessor, in despatch No. 32, date February 13th, 1846.

In 1840 it sold at execution sale for 24,000 dols.; on the 3rd March, this year (I presume, to facilitate the succeeding sales), it was again sold at execution for 10,150 dols., and was then purchased by four head men, in the name of seventy field labourers, chiefly of Dem Amstel, for 25,000 dols., under the following terms:—

Dollars.	
10,000,	cash down.
2,500,	two months.
12,500,	in one and two years.
25,000,	with interest.

Many of these labourers had already paid money for locations on the land; they found that they could not be secure of their purchase without becoming proprietors.

There is no labourer who cannot earn two guilders, two-thirds of 4*s.* 2*d.*, per day in seven hours' labour. 300,000 dols. are paid monthly in wages; provisions are cheaper than in England, according to the habits of the people; labour is only reduced in price by being made efficient; yet numerous sales are taking place in the colony to the labourers, as may be seen by the Registrar's advertisements, proving in full, that emigration has had no effect on the paid industry of the mass.

On the east coast Demerara agitation prevailed to a great extent towards the close of 1846. Whole gangs, under advice, struck work, quitted their locations on estates before the 1st of January, under the belief, insidiously impressed on them, that the laws lately passed would reduce them to slavery if they remained; and that the Governor had combined with the planters to reduce the wages for labour to two bitts per diem. I have been myself interrogated, sometimes civilly, at others sulkily, by Negroes, on this latter point; my answer was, that I knew nothing about the terms of contract; but if work was done, it must be paid for under agreement—if two bitts were taken, it was the affair of the parties making the agreement—time would show. Happily the labourers have found out that they have good wages and are not slaves.

No. 14.—*Number of Estates in cultivation; Nominal List; ditto abandoned.* Enclosure No. 14. Page 94.

It appears by the annexed return from the Colonial Receiver-General that, on the 1st January, 1838, there were 308 estates in cultivation, either of coffee or sugar, in the three counties—Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice; namely 233 in the two former, and 75 in the latter.

On the 31st December, 1846, there were 204 in cultivation in Demerara and Essequibo, 47 in Berbice, being a diminution in nine years of 57; there are many coffee estates in Berbice very partially cultivated, and some few in Demerara not abandoned; the land, however, is so good, that whenever occasion offers, either in higher prices for coffee, or combination for central manufactories of sugar, many neglected or abandoned estates will be restored to cultivation. The return gives the nominal list for 1838, with a similar one for 1846, marking the abandoned estates, as well as those which have exchanged the cultivation of cotton or coffee for that of sugar.

No. 15.—*Statement of the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, and Berbice, in regard to trusts under their care.* Enclosure No. 15.

This forms the last detail of the statistics of the last two years of my administration. Page 99.

BRITISH GUIANA.

My despatch No. 208, date December 29th, 1842, contained the report of the Committee required to inquire into the state of the Boards of Orphans.

The mere summary of the work performed by the Administrator-General, will hardly show your Lordship the extent of labour of the office, to reduce the accounts into a form intelligible at one view.

The summary given by the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, reduces under different heads the work done and the amounts in question; there can be no delay in justice; the accounts of parties are regularly published; the books, with details, are submitted to the Court of Policy, and examined by a Committee.

The affairs of the Berbice Board of Orphans, though the accounts had been more accurately kept than those of the sister counties, had been equally in want of amelioration; with the latter considerable loss had occurred. Now, if common supervision be observed, neither of the administratorships can be long in arrears. An Administrator-General, under securities, can be made answerable for losses; the respective Boards were hardly responsible, and their fees ate up both capital and revenue administered.

The extinction of these Boards has done such essential service to the community, that credit must be given to those who effected it, perhaps in larger meed than for other reforms in which they have been concerned.

While about to terminate this Supplement, I need hardly recal to your Lordship that, during the long period of my administration, I have had no life of ease; and, as I did not anticipate much prolongation of my connexion with British Guiana, I had determined to collect such information as might be useful to your Lordship's department, for a comparative reference to any similar number of past or succeeding years, in relation to this Government.

Many changes have occurred in the mode of taxation, and new sources for meeting the public expenditure have been obtained. Though some necessaries of life are apparently highly taxed; yet the great sources of revenue seem to arise from taxes on what may be called superfluities, if not luxuries.

I will not recapitulate the transactions of my administration. I trust I have shown zeal for the public good, and diligence in act to effect it; my desire has been to conceal nothing, but to give information on every point connected with my government, that might, in my opinion, be useful to the Colonial Department, under whatever head it might be. I have to be gratefully thankful for the support I have had under successive Secretaries of State. In one instance, only I have been mortified; yet I have to acknowledge the justice of the noble Lord then at the head of your Lordship's department, who did not listen to the clamour against me on the occasion of Sir Henry Macleod's mission to settle those discussions, which, had I flinched from my own sense of obedience to my instructions, I should have avoided. I now conclude.

HENRY LIGHT.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS, SUPPLEMENT BLUE BOOK, 1846.

	Page
No. 1.—Revenue and Expenditure, 1831 to 1846	72
No. 2.—Customs Produce exported, 1838 to 1846	75
No. 3.—Criminal and Civil Cases, Demerara and Essequibo, 1838 to 1846	76
Berbice	76
Supreme Civil and Inferior Courts Civil Justice	76
No. 4.—Inferior Criminal Courts	79
No. 5.—Gaols, &c.	80
No. 6.—Police Magistrate, George Town	83
George Town and New Amsterdam, Municipal Expences, &c.	84
No. 7.—Hospital Statistics and Mortality	85
No. 8.—Police—British Guiana	89
No. 9.—Education	89
No. 10.—Expences for Poor	90
No. 11.—Penal Settlement, 1842 to 1846	90
No. 12.—Harbour-Master's Report, Demerara and Berbice, 1838 to 1846	92
Number of Vessels and Tonnage, inwards and outwards	92
No. 13.—Emigration, 1835 to 1846	93
No. 14.—List of Estates.	94
No. 15.—Administrator-General, Reports of	99

Enclosure 1 in No. 24.

Return of Revenue, with Remarks, 1831 *to* 1846, *inclusive.*

TABLE, exhibiting at one view the REVENUE of the COLONY of BRITISH GUIANA, under its different Heads, Yearly, from the 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846

Names of the different Heads.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.
	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.	Dollars. Cts.
Deposits of Appraisements of Apprenticed Labourers	13,157 0	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Beacon and Tonnage Duties, and Hospital Money	30,231 50	42,262 23	36,544 31	42,987 88	36,425 76	36,463 20	33,684 90	41,237 15	38,144 55
Huckster Licences	1,607 33	122 0	109 69	2,710 67	14,976 40	11,249 70	11,670 0	11,050 0	8,170 0
Cart Licences	1,953 33	256 85	51 0	22 0	250 0	202 0	1,875 0	1,875 0	2,375 0
Spirit Retail Licences (commenced from 1st July, 1838)	6,600 0	13,010 0	13,166 67	20,174 33	29,500 0	28,240 0	30,722 50	31,480 0	34,800 0
Collected Fines	1,463 67	1,654 0	755 83	733 58	679 77	1,286 77	679 07	1,730 81	8,383 65
Acre Money	1,039 58	1,241 26	363 47	1,435 40	1,326 62	1,072 65	869 92	891 18	737 42
Woodcutting Licences	1,995 67	1,744 45	1,823 21	2,025 82	264 10	1,950 58	3,769 67	5,191 28	5,528 86
Fees from the Government Secretary's Office, Demerara	8,358 17	6,899 50	6,874 0	7,275 50	7,411 83	5,750 67	6,408 50	6,674 15	7,504 50
Fees from the Secretary to the Chief Justice	2,568 84	2,571 17	3,646 70	3,440 03	5,431 60	3,564 18	2,762 85	1,275 35	788 20
Fees from the High Sheriff's Office	1,237 0	1,150 0	987 0	1,008 0	819 0	772 0	772 0	825 0	844 0
Fees from the Registrar's Office (surplus)	9,339 79	10,864 72	14,019 18	6,991 82	11,158 05	5,007 08	4,770 82	4,706 60	1,246 36
Surplus Fees Marshal's Office	1,420 0	*	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Unexpended Balance of Civil List	278 67	873 61	. .	883 82	21,720 0	1,666 58	9,190 15	254 65	1,461 80
Militia Fines	566 66	. .	. .	. .	. .	150 0 Arrear.	. .	. .	. .
Profit and Loss	1,253 38	400 37	1,566 47	646 62	. .	. .	12 50	. .	. .
Import Duties } See Remarks	135,197 47	103,173 0	70,547 52	220,148 80	314,684 70	290,756 02	306,726 73	293,946 13	337,767 08
Wine and Spirit Duties } No. 1	159,190 16	96,650 61	53,168 78	86,873 36	63,652 72	70,846 57	93,243 47	100,500 98	106,434 80
Horse and Carriage Tax	12,815 33	19,838 0	3,768 32	15,436 67	9,084 0	5,993 0	3,092 0	3,291 0	3,153 0
Income Tax } See Remarks No. 2	32,375 50	25,048 39	8,900 59	58,733 83	23,330 08	10,890 83	7,789 30	8,637 32	8,774 65
Produce Tax } See Remarks No. 2	196,377 20	86,700 36	21,284 25	224,943 83	40,652 55	35,539 50	28,042 75	24,246 55	19,375 05
Arrears of Taxes. See Remarks No. 3	5,172 0	1,582 07	14,410 85	211,910 03	27,976 13	70,641 77	27,628 08	31,378 53	30,828 52
Surplus Duties from H.M. Custom-House	10,227 48	87,107 70	97,200 0	63,840 0	43,440 0	41,280 0	44,640 0	44,400 0	72,063 30
Nett Proceeds of Scotch Manse	291 67	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Poll Tax	935 0	27 50	†	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Gun Licences	924 0	1,543 50	168 64	2,907 32	2,224 33	1,087 90	880 0	756 0	660 0
Rum Duty. See Remarks No. 4	6,450 0	43,206 80	20,478 82	65,744 95	125,493 78	132,441 62	137,449 75	135,265 75	137,060 50
Loan to the Mayor and Town Council (refunded)	15,500 0	. .	. .	6,000 0	. .	4,500 0	. .	2,500 0	. .
Deposits in the Savings' Bank of Berbice	4,113 19	3,586 30	5,693 98	‡	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Fees from the Registrar's Office in Berbice	8,528 17	10,272 72	9,496 67	8,283 73	6,939 12	6,692 35	8,933 85	9,944 05	6,334 15
Liquor Licences	3,075 0	3,975 0	4,475 0	2,841 67	1,746 67	1,689 65	1,682 95	1,783 35	1,925 0
Sworn Accountant's Office in Berbice	790 03	67 71	602 67	415 02	519 0	513 0	315 65	. .	. .
Fees of the Sheriff's Office in Berbice	297 12	743 0	237 81	451 0	.	390 75	262 40	260 30	217 10
Vendue Tax in Berbice	3,620 0	3,491 0	2,330 07	. .	1,111 08	1,489 85	334 70	. .	202 10
Public Stellings in Berbice	73 33	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Nett Proceeds of the Old Court-House	. .	668 33	. .	. .	1,000 0	. .	. .	. .	. .

Sinking Fund for the redemption of Emigration Loan	. .	51,962 77	3,222 84	291 33	2 98	‖	. .	. .	.
Bills of Exchange drawn for the Colonial Funds, sold out	. .	554,700 0§	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Police Reward Fund	. .	792 60	1,223 78	878 92	66 82	75 82	1,004 45	710 25	1,085 65
Proceeds of the Colony House and Furniture	. .	3,033 67	1,096 81	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Colony Craft Tax. See Remarks No. 5	. .	1,428 65	567 65	6,090 14	4,537 68	1,393 27	87 40	50 85	37 55
Porters' Licences	. .	125 40	187 0	24 0	7 0	148 0	101 0	6 0	. .
Grants of Land	. .	246 68	32 67	540 0	281 33	3,581 15	1,988 0	568 0	1,792 45
Mud Lots in Berbice	. .	7,783 25	1,250 0	. .	. .	.	. .	1,000 0	500 0
Fees of the Assistant Government Secretary's Office in Berbice	. .	584 0	107 36	800 43	503 43	362 35	362 40	579 0	378 30
Loan to St. George's Vestry	. .	. .	7,666 67	. .	. .	. .	1,333 33	Part Payment.	. .
Proceeds of Fort D'Urban	. .	. .	1,495 60	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Loan to the Committee of Pilotage	. .	. .	5,000 0	8,333 33	In full of Loan.	. .	. .	. .	. .
Rent of Canje Ferry	. .	. .	367 67	1,101 50	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Spirit Retail Licences, rural districts (commenced 1st July, 1841)	. .	. .	. .	10,655 0	27,014 83	29,291 65	31,622 20	35,500 0	38,153 35
Duty on Hard Wood Timber exported	. .	. .	. .	1,053 50	435 58	831 75	Since discontinued.	. .	. .
Shop Licences	. .	. .	. .	2,572 10	9,037 83	11,156 55	11,746 65	12,655 52	12,491 87
Overland Mail to Berbice	. .	. .	. .	643 0	. .	340 15	1,295 35	3,296 85	4,275 20
Cart Tax	. .	. .	. .	. .	678 0	. .	140 0	192 0	240 0
Charcoal Licences	. .	. .	. .	. .	30 0	Since discontinued.	. .	. .	. .
Colonel Inness's Annuity	. .	. .	. .	. .	2,668 10	Saving on Civil List of 1841.		. .	. .
Billiard-Table Licences	. .	. .	. .	. .	66 67	. .	. .	. .	. .
Penal Settlement Receipts	. .	. .	. .	. .	1,823 0	. .	9,756 25	166 57	1,215 28
Arrears of Berbice Acre Money	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	10,560 0	Since no more received.		848 0
Auction Duties	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	2,521 0	5,294 17	3,511 55
Auctioneers' Licences	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	300 0	300 0	500 0
Interest on Town Council Bonds to pay Savings'-Bank Interest	¶	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	2,012 25	555 53	1,040 91
Nett Proceeds of the Old Buck Logie	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	222 85	. .
Total Revenue	678,023 24	1,191,389 17	414,889 55	1,091,848 93	838,970 54	829,868 91	832,479 79	825,198 72	900,849 70
Balances in the Savings'-Bank, Demerara	16,475 88	20,910 66	24,803 88	24,145 60	21,804 15	21,193 40	23,096 21	28,692 80	33,025 73
Balances in the Savings'-Bank, Berbice	See above.	See above.	See above.	13,491 34	10,891 64	6,623 03	6,814 08	8,212 42	6,845 33

* Since 1838, the Fees were all paid out to the Officers of this department. † Since 1838, this Tax was discontinued.
‡ Since 1840, the Accounts of the Savings'-Bank have been kept separate, as was already previously observed in the Receiver's Office in George Town, Demerara (see above).
‖ Since 1839 discontinued; the subsequent amounts are Arrears. § To redeem the Colonial Paper Currency. ¶ Part of the Savings'-Bank money invested in Town Market Bonds.

Extracted from the Books in my Office,
M. J. Retemeyer, Colonial Receiver-General.

Remarks on the following Items in the Table of Revenue of British Guiana.

1.—The amount of Import and Wine and Spirit Duties collected in the years 1839 and 1840 has been less on account of the stoppage of the supplies.

2.—In consequence of the stoppage of the supplies, the taxes for the year 1839 were made payable on the 31st March, 1841, and those for the year 1840 on the 1st of October, 1841.

3.—The arrears of Taxes include those on Income, Produce and Horses, and Carriages; the amount received in 1841 were the arrears of the Taxes of 1839.

4.—The collection of the Rum Duty commenced from the 1st of July, 1838, and from 1st July, 1841, a new Ordinance was enacted, prohibiting the planters to give rum to their labourers.

5.—The Colony Craft Tax, discontinued after the year 1842. The subsequent amounts received are arrears of said tax.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Estimate and Expenditure, 1838 *to* 1846 *inclusive.*

RETURN of MONIES provided on the ANNUAL ESTIMATE of BRITISH GUIANA, for the General Expenses of the Colony, shewing the Amount actually Expended, and Surplus or Deficiency in each of the following Years :—

Years.	Amount provided for the General Expenditure, per Estimate.	Amount actually Expended.	Surplus, or less Expended than Provided for.	Deficiency, or more Expended than Provided for.
	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.
1838	648,750 20	605,298 67	43,451 53	..
1839	633,366 0	638,362 0	..	4,996 0
1840	700,918 25	583,807 46	117,110 79	..
1841	1,145,870 46	1,066,227 34	79,643 12	..
1842	662,329 85	861,871 80	..	199,541 95
1843	906,751 56	810,089 33	96,662 23	..
1844	719,427 43	679,719 0	39,708 43	..
1845	1,120,266 97	866,938 77	253,328 20	..
1846	811,541 30	1,207,281 20	..	395,740 0
	7,349,222 02	7,319,595 67	629,904 30	600,277 95
	Less expended, &c.	29,626 35	Balance betw n Surplus and Deficiency.	29,626 35
		7,349,222,02		629,904,30

Extracted from the Books in my Office, M. J. RETEMEYER, Colonial Receiver-General.

Surplus Revenue on certain Items in 1846 *over* 1845.

STATEMENT of SURPLUS REVENUE on the following Items in 1846.

Estimated Amount on Ways and Means.

	Dolls.
Import Duties	290,000
Wine and Spirit Duties	98,000
Beacon and Tonnage Duties	35,000
Rum Duties	130,000
Custom-house Duties	35,000
Retail Spirit Licences	31,000
Ditto, in the Rural Districts	35,000
	654,000

Balances in the Treasury.

	Dolls. Cents.
On the 31st of December, 1844	276,315 83
,, ,, 1845	262,025 94
,, ,, 1846	91,091 82

Amount realised.

		Surplus.
Import Duties	337,767 08	47,767 08
Wine and Spirit Duties	106,434 80	8,434 80
Beacon and Tonnage Duties	37,406 48	2,406 48
Rum Duties	137,060 50	7,060 50
Custom-house Duties	72,063 30	37,063 30
Retail Spirit Licences	34,800 0	3,800 0
Ditto, in the Rural Districts	38,153 35	3,153 35
	763,685 51	109,685 51

	Dolls.		Dolls.
Amount paid towards the introduction of Portuguese Labourers	40,000	Amount received on Loan for Public Bridges	55,000
Paid to the Board of Orphans in Demerary	22,204	Balances in favour of the Colonial Treasury to be added to the 91,091 dolls. 82 cents	24,029
Paid to ditto in Berbice	16,825		
	79,029		79,029

Expenditure for Emigration Purposes.

EXPENDITURE in each Year, from 1841 to 1845, for Emigration Purposes.

1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.
Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.
215,317 85	101,212 97	114,182 75	10,615 50	155,703 34	371,884 39

Extracted from the Book in my Office, M. J. RETEMEYER, Colonial Receiver-General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 24.

Customs Return, 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

OFFICIAL RETURN, called for by HIS EXCELLENCY'S MINUTE of the 4th day of November, 1846, being for 9 years ending 5th January, 1847.

	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846
Sugar, Hogsheads of, Exported .	54,583	38,491	40,713	34,199	36,211	35,738	38,999	39,647	26,201
Rum, Puncheons of „ .	18,431	16,070	21,198	11,118	10,631	8,296	11,706	15,139	8,384
Molasses, Casks of „ .	25,506	12,134	15,999	16,179	17,894	24,957	21,677	16,763	14,605
Coffee, lbs. of „ .	4,186,790	1,583,250	3,357,300	1,088,670	2,177,120	1,428,100	1,490,737	501,900	102,450
Cotton, Bales of „ .	1,803	1,364	331	170	40	24	..	..	..
Official Value of Imports . . .	£ 1,038,653	1,184,095	1,053,500	1,031,011	651,056	785,907	633,600	841,986	1,144,146
Surplus Customs	£ 8,401 11 4	19,000 0 0	19,750 0 0	13,800 0 0	9,050 0 0	8,600 0 0	9,600 0 0	9,250 0 0	15,448 5 9
Amount of Seizures, General . .	£ 35 0 0	184 0 0	982 0 0	73 0 0	246 0 0	478 0 0	431 0 0	163 0 0	272 0 0

Number of Officers employed under direct order from the Board at Home	12	At an expense of 5250*l.* per annum, per Honourable Board's Order, dated 31st May, 1837, No. 38, transmitting an amended scheme of Classification, and also a scale of Salaries to the several Officers, in lieu of those sanctioned by the Treasury Warrant of the 15th April, 1833. There is also, in consequence of the great increase of duties in the Warehousing Department, a Locker allowed from year to year, as the good of the service may, to the Collector, seem to require, at a rate of pay per day equal to about 200*l.* per annum.
Number of Officers employed under the Colonial Ordinance Regulations	18	At an expense varying from 15,000 dollars to 20,000 dollars, a sum adequate to defray the expenses attending the employment of those Officers being paid out of the Colonial Treasury; and the further sum of one dollar for every pound sterling of their fixed salaries, as a remuneration to the Out-door Officers of the Customs, for their aid and assistance in protecting the Colonial Revenue.

Custom House, George Town, Demerary,
25th January, 1847.

D. J. ROUNIGNE,
Acting Collector of British Guiana.

BRITISH GUIANA.
Encl. 2 in No. 24.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. 3 in No. 24.

Enclosure 3 in No. 24.

Registrar's Reports of Trials before Supreme and Inferior Civil Courts for the three Counties.

RETURN of SUITS TRIED and ADJUDICATED before the SUPREME COURT of CIVIL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, held for the COUNTIES of DEMERARA and ESSEQUEBO, from the 1st of January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

Years.	Number of Suits.
1838	173
1839	201
1840	245
1841	226
1842	366
1843	225
1844	185
1845	109
1846	167
Total	1897

Registrar's Office, George Town, Demerara,
This 25th of January, 1847.

CHARLES WILDAY, Registrar.

RETURN of CASES TRIED and ADJUDICATED in the County of BERBICE before the SUPREME COURT of CIVIL JUSTICE, from the 1st of January, 1838, to the 31st of December, 1846.

Year.	Number of cases in each year.
1838	51
1839	53
1840	86
1841	78
1842	61
1843	61
1844	80
1845	69
1846	34
Total	573

Registrar's Office, Berbice, 13th January, 1847.

S. BOURNE, Registrar.

RETURN of SUITS TRIED and ADJUDICATED before the INFERIOR COURT of CIVIL JUSTICE, held for the COUNTIES of DEMERARA and ESSEQUEBO, in the COLONY of BRITISH GUIANA, from the 1st of January, 1838, to 31st of December, 1846.

Years.	Number of Suits.
1838	478
1839	509
1840	592
1841	550
1842	511
1843	376
1844	188
1845	205
1846	279
Total	3688

Registrar's Office, George Town, Demerara,
This 25th of January, 1847.

CHARLES WILDAY, Registrar.

RETURN of CASES TRIED and ADJUDICATED, in the COUNTY of BERBICE, before the INFERIOR COURT of CIVIL JUSTICE, from the 1st of January, 1838, to the 31st December, 1846.

Year.	Number of cases in each year.
1838	40
1839	50
1840	66
1841	67
1842	28
1843	49
1844	38
1845	29
1846	25
Total	392

Registrar's Office, Berbice, 13th January, 1847.

S. BOURNE, Registrar.

Registrar's Report of Trials before Supreme Criminal Court, Demerara and Essequebo.

RETURN of TRIALS, CONDEMNATIONS, and ACQUITTALS, before the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, held for the COUNTIES of DEMERARA and ESSEQUEBO, from the 1st of January, 1838, to 31st of December, 1846.

Years.	Condemnations.	Acquittals.	Total.
1838	9	6	15
1839	25	15	40
1840	31	12	43
1841	23	12	35
1842	29	24	53
1843	32	19	51
1844	39	12	51
1845	34	24	58
1846	56	25	81
Grand total of trials . . .			427

Registrar's Office, George Town, Demerara, This 25th of January, 1847.

CHARLES WILDAY, Registrar.

RETURN of SENTENCES of DEATH for MURDER, pronounced by the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, held for the COUNTIES of DEMERARY and ESSEQUEBO, from 1st of January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

1838.—None.

1839.—One.—Antonio Gomez, respited 4th June, 1839; commuted to five years' imprisonment, 27th November, 1839.—(His Excellency, H. Light.)

1840.—Three.—Penny Rose and Harry Blount, both executed 29th August, 1840.—(His Excellency, H. Light.)
Chloris Schultz, respited 8th January, 1841.—(His Excellency, Sir H. McLeod.) Further respited, 29th January, 1841.—(His Excellency, H. Light.)

1841.—One.—Nelson Hercules, respited 19th March, 1841; commuted to three years' imprisonment, 21st November, 1842.—(His Excellency, H. Light.)

1842.—None.

1843.—Two.—Phill Lewis and William Young, the latter executed 13th January, 1844, the former respited 12th January, 1844; commuted to 15 years' imprisonment, 30th November, 1844.—(His Excellency, H. Light.)

1844, 1845, 1846 } None.

Registrar's Office, 18th of March, 1847.

C. G. WILDAY,
Sworn Clerk, Judicial Department.

RETURN of TRIALS, CONDEMNATIONS, and ACQUITTALS, for RAPE, before the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, held for the COUNTIES of DEMERARY and ESSEQUEBO, from the 1st of January, 1838, to 31st of December, 1846.

Years.	Condemnations.	Acquittals.	Total.
1838	None	None	None
1839	4	2	6
1840	1	5	6
1841	1	2	3
1842	None	5	5
1843	None	None	None
1844	3	2	5
1845	7	7	14
1846	5	2	7
Grand total of trials . . .			46

Registrar's Office, 18th of March, 1847.

C. G. WILDAY,
Sworn Clerk, Judicial Department.

BRITISH GUIANA.

RETURN of SENTENCES of DEATH for SODOMY, pronounced by the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, held for the COUNTIES of DEMERARY and ESSEQUEBO, from 1st of January, 1838, to 31st of December, 1846.

1838.—Three trials,—two acquittals, one condemnation—two years' imprisonment and flogging.
1839.—One trial,—one acquittal.

1840.—Two.—Charles Abel, respited 19th March, 1840; commuted to two years' solitary confinement, 25th July, 1840.—(His Excellency, H. Light.)

Lewis Jack, respited 8th January, 1841.—(His Excellency, Sir H. McLeod.) Commuted to three years' imprisonment, 10th April, 1844.—(His Excellency, H. Light.)

1841 to 1846.—One trial, acquitted.

Registrar's Office, 18th of March, 1847.

C. G. WILDAY,
Sworn Clerk, Judicial Department.

Registrar's Reports of Trials before the Supreme Criminal Courts, Berbice.

RETURN of TRIALS, CONDEMNATIONS, and ACQUITTALS, before the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, held for the COUNTY of BERBICE, from the 1st of January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

Years.	Condemnations.	Acquittals.	Total.
1838	Nil	Nil	Nil
1839	4	Nil	4
1840	1	1	2
1841	2	1	3
1842	5	5	10
1843	6	3	9
1844	Nil	Nil	Nil
1845	1	Nil	1
1846	1	4	5
Grand total of trials . . .			34

Registrar's Office, Berbice, 13th January, 1847.

S. BOURNE, Registrar.

Sentences of Death by Supreme Criminal Court, New Amsterdam.

RETURN of the NUMBER of SENTENCES of DEATH for MURDER passed in the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JUSTICE, in the COUNTY of BERBICE, from 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

1838 . .	None	1843 . .	None
1839 . .	None	1844 . .	None
1840 . .	None	1845 . .	None
1841 . .	None	1846 . .	One
1842 . .	One		

Total number of sentences of death, two, both of which were executed.

Registrar's Office, Berbice,
30th March, 1847.

S. BOURNE, Registrar.

RETURN of the NUMBER of SENTENCES passed in the SUPREME COURT of CRIMINAL JUSTICE, in the COUNTY of BERBICE, from 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846, in cases of RAPE or SODOMY.

Rape.

Only one indictment preferred, upon which an acquittal was pronounced.

Sodomy.—None.

Registrar's Office, Berbice,
30th March, 1847.

S. BOURNE, Registrar.

Enclosure 4 in No. 24.

Inferior Criminal Courts, 1838 *to* 1846, *inclusive.*

RETURN of CASES before the INFERIOR CRIMINAL COURTS in the Years undermentioned; the Jurisdiction thereof being limited to Three Months' Imprisonment and Fine, not exceeding 20*l.* sterling.

Year and County.	Trials.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1838. Demerara . . .	296	270	26
,, Essequebo . . .	176	125	51
,, Berbice . . .	61	55	6
Total . . .	..	450	
1839. Demerara . . .	331	282	49
,, Essequebo . . .	345	191	154
,, Berbice. . . .	126	107	19
Total . . .	..	580	
1840. Demerara . . .	210	190	20
,, Essequebo . . .	322	177	145
,, Berbice . . .	93	86	7
Total . . .	..	453	
1841. Demerara . . .	333	297	36
,, Essequebo . . .	295	176	119
,, Berbice . . .	96	89	7
Total . . .	..	562	
1842. Demerara . . .	422	392	30
,, Essequebo . . .	309	171	138
,, Berbice . . .	148	131	17
Total . . .	..	694	
1843. Demerara . . .	442	407	35
,, Essequebo . . .	204	117	87
,, Berbice . . .	183	158	25
Total . . .	..	682	
1844. Demerara . . .	329	300	29
,, Essequebo . . .	153	83	70
,, Berbice . . .	126	103	23
Total . . .	..	486	
1845. Demerara . . .	306	275	31
,, Essequebo . . .	135	61	7
,, Berbice . . .	79	71	
Total . . .	..	407	
1846. Demerara . . .	385	346	39
,, Essequebo . . .	53	40	13
,, Berbice . . .	80	73	7
Total . . .	..	459	

W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. 5 in No. 24.

Enclosure 5 in No. 24.

George Town Gaol, County of Demerara.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PRISONERS confined in HER MAJESTY'S GAOL at GEORGE TOWN, from the 1st January, 1838, to the 31st December, 1846, distinguishing those committed for Trial from those under Sentence by Stipendiary and Police Magistrates, and setting forth the Expense of Gaol, including Salaries to Keeper, Turnkeys, &c. &c., for each Year, and also Repairs of Gaol.

Year.	Committed for Trial.		Under Sentence of Stipendiary and Police Magistrates.	Deaths.	Amount of Expense.	
	Supreme Criminal Court.	Inferior Criminal Court.			Dollars and Cents.	Sterling Money.
					Dolls. Cents.	£. s. d.
1838	11	229	1,351	1	8,368 33	1,743 8 0¼
1839	37	199	1,412	..	19,030 37	3,964 13 2¼
1840	48	230	1,343	..	21,085 32	4,392 15 6
1841	46	302	1,282	1	22,188 74	4,622 13 1
1842	76	526	1,159	..	18,654 75	3,886 8 1¼
1843	101	392	1,193	..	13,588 65	2,830 19 4¼
1844	62	311	1,054	1	19,599 05	4,083 12 8¼
1845	85	323	1,146	1	13,035 0	2,715 12 6
1846	80	362	1,618	1	12,975 10	2,703 2 11
Cost of prison when given over for the reception of prisoners in					34,440 0	7,175 0 0
Cost of enlargement of do. in 1837					24,000 0	5,000 0 0
Cost of new paling erected in 1844					7,580 70	1,579 6 3

GEO. BAGOT,
High Sheriff, British Guiana.

Hospital, George Town Gaol, County of Demerara.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PATIENTS admitted into and discharged from the HOSPITAL in the COLONIAL GAOL, GEORGE TOWN, distinguishing Males and Females of European Blood from Males and Females of African Blood, with Number of Deaths and Total Annual Expense of Hospital, from 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

Year.	Admitted.				Discharged.				Deaths.	Annual Expense.	
	White.		Coloured.		White.		Coloured.			Dollars and Cents.	Sterling Money.
	Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.		Dolls. Cents.	£. s. d.
1838	62	..	418	58	62	..	417	58	1	..	..
1839	47	..	442	18	47	..	442	18	..	..	..
1840	49	..	321	14	49	..	321	14	..	..	..
1841	35	..	263	7	35	..	262	7	1	..	..
1842	27	..	341	29	27	..	341	29	..	357 8	74 7 10
1843	27	..	337	37	27	..	337	27	..	254 18	52 19 1
1844	45	..	381	57	45	..	380	57	1	350 94	73 2 3
1845	37	..	308	79	37	..	307	79	1	361 09	75 4 6½
1846	31	..	415	86	31	..	414	86	1	492 80	102 13 4

J. R. F. HUTSON, M.D.,
Gaol Surgeon.

Gaol—New Amsterdam, County of Berbice.

NUMERICAL RETURN of PRISONERS in the County Gaol at New-Amsterdam, from the 1st January, 1838, to the 31st of December, 1846; ANNUAL EXPENSE of the Establishment of the said Gaol, and for Dieting the Prisoners, &c. &c.

For what Year.	NUMBER OF PRISONERS.						Died.	ANNUAL EXPENSE FOR ESTABLISHMENT, DIETING, &c.							
	Under Sentence by Stipendiary Magistrates.		Under Sentence of other Courts and Magistrates.		TOTAL.			Salary to Keeper.	Idem to Matron.	Idem Turnkey.	Idem Surgeon.	Idem Chaplains.	Wages to a Servant.	Dieting, Clothing, and other Necessaries, &c. &c.	TOTAL.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.
1838	2	10	50	18	52	28	..	1833 33	..	600 0	833 67	467 0	..	2227 92	5961 92
1839	1	..	118	3	119	3	..	1833 33	..	600 0	833 67	467 0	..	2244 98	5978 98
1840	..	..	155	10	155	10	1	1834 0	300 0	600 0	834 0	467 0	133 0	3672 77	7840 77
1841	5	..	158	8	163	8	..	1200 0	300 0	600 0	834 0	467 0	133 0	4247 16	7781 16
1842	23	..	226	17	249	17	1	1200 0	300 0	600 0	834 0	467 0	133 0	4761 42	8295 42
1843	11	1	225	19	236	20	..	1200 0	300 0	600 0	834 0	467 0	133 0	4394 77	7928 77
1844	8	2	217	24	225	26	..	1200 0	300 0	600 0	834 0	467 0	133 0	4502 62	8036 62
1845	12	..	201	6	213	6	..	1200 0	300 0	600 0	834 0	467 0	133 0	4289 68	7823 68
1846	8	..	414	83	422	83	1	1200 0	300 0	600 0	834 0	467 0	133 0	6506 98	10,040 98
Grand Total.	70	13	1764	188	1834	201	3*	12,700 66	2100 0	5400 0	7505 34	4203 0	931 0	36,848 30	69,688 30

*1 Of African descent, 1 Native Indian, and 1 a Private of Her Majesty's 19th Regiment of Foot.

NOTE.—Cost of the Prison when taken over in July 1834—9,666 dol. 67 cts.

Prior to the Year 1837 there were places of Confinement on each Estate, wherein the Sentences of the Special Magistrates were carried into effect.

15th January, 1847.

CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff.

Hospital—New Amsterdam Gaol, County of Berbice.

NUMERICAL RETURN of PRISONERS admitted into the Hospital of the County Gaol at New-Amsterdam, from the Year1838, to the 31st of December, 1846.

YEARS.	ADMITTED.			DISCHARGED.								REMARKS.
				CURED.		RELIEVED.		DEAD.		TOTAL.		
	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1838	36	2	38	36	2	..	..	..	..	36	2	
1839	75	2	77	75	2	..	..	..	..	75	2	
1840	35	2	37	35	1	..	..	..	1	35	2	
1841	57	6	63	57	6	..	..	..	..	57	6	
1842	77	4	81	76	4	..	..	1	..	77	4	
1843	35	6	41	35	6	..	..	..	..	35	6	
1844	27	1	28	27	1	..	..	..	..	27	1	
1845	23	2	25	23	2	..	..	..	..	23	2	
1846	15	2	17	14	2	..	..	1	..	15	2	
Grand Total.	380	27	407	378	26	..	..	2	1	380	27	

The Patients were generally of African descent. Of those who died, one was of African descent, one a Native Indian and one a Private of Her Majesty's 19th Regiment of Foot.

CHARLES R. WHINFIELD, Sheriff of Berbice.

A. R. HOLLINGSWORTH, M.D. Gaol Surgeon,

Expenditure for Gaols in Rural Districts.

RETURN of PERSONS committed to HER MAJESTY'S GAOLS of MAHAICA, WAKENAAM, and CAPOUEY (and to the temporary Places of Confinement called Hibernia and Pomona during the building of the Capouey Gaol) in the Years under mentioned; showing also the Number of Deaths therein, and the Expenses of each Establishment.

Year.	Gaol.	Committed for Trial.		Under Sentence by Stipendiary Magistrates.	Deaths.	Expenses of Gaol.			
		By Supreme Criminal Court.	By Inferior Criminal Court.			Salaries to Keeper and Servants.	Provisions for Prisoners.	Rent of Gaol.	Grand Total.
						Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.	Dolls. Cents.
1838	Mahaica (unoccupied)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
,,	Wakenaam . . .	..	8	18	..	1,100 0	82 38	Nil.	1,182 38
,,	Hibernia* . . .	2	75	1	..	Nil.	402 62	381 33	783 95
1839	Mahaica	..	26	9	..	1,086 65	133 51	Nil.	1,220 16
,,	Wakenaam . . .	..	107	16	1	1,100 0	756 0	,,	1,856 0
,,	Pomona*	..	33	5	..	Nil.	603 93	3,163 33	3,767 26
1840	Mahaica	1	17	13	..	1,086 65	53 35	Nil.	1,140 0
,,	Wakenaam . . .	2	114	5	1	1,100 0	928 04	,,	2,028 04
,,	Capouey	7	206	5	2	1,100 0	1,134 80	,,	2,234 80
1841	Mahaica	2	92	21	..	1,086 65	359 71	,,	1,446 36
,,	Wakenaam . . .	2	123	1	..	1,100 0	1,175 86	,,	2,275 86
,,	Capouey	..	229	6	..	1,100 0	1,125 28	,,	2,225 28
1842	Mahaica	..	14	27	..	1,086 65	776 25	,,	1,862 90
,,	Wakenaam . . .	4	106	7	..	1,100 0	1,008 21	,,	2,108 21
,,	Capouey	10	342	6	..	1,100 0	1,125 28	,,	2,225 28
1843	Mahaica	..	19	11	..	1,086 65	292 45	,,	1,379 10
,,	Wakenaam . . .	..	58	5	..	1,100 0	358 46	,,	1,458 46
,,	Capouey	6	179	1	..	1,100 0	410 61	,,	1,510 61
1844	Mahaica	2	26	13	..	1,086 65	249 85	,,	1,336 50
,,	Wakenaam . . .	..	53	5	..	1,100 0	161 46	,,	1,261 46
,,	Capouey	1	104	7	..	1,100 0	168 19	,,	1,268 19
1845	Mahaica	3	14	†32	..	1,086 65	364 10	,,	1,450 75
,,	Wakenaam . . .	..	40	8	..	1,100 0	178 80	,,	1,278 80
,,	Capouey	5	98	28	..	1,100 0	343 93	,,	1,443 93
1846	Mahaica	3	7	170	..	1,086 65	336 63	,,	1,423 28
,,	Wakenaam . . .	4	17	110	1	1,100 0	456 72	,,	1,556 72
,,	Capouey	..	19	183	..	1,100 0	342 52	,,	1,442 52

The Mahaica Gaol was built in 1837–38, and cost £4,042 18*s.* sterling.
The Wakenaam Gaol was built in 1837–38, and cost £4,182 10*s.* sterling.
The Capouey Gaol was built in 1838–39–40, and cost £4,356 2*s.* 2½*d.*

* Used now only as lock-up places by the police.

† The Police Ordinance for the rural districts came into operation late in 1845.

W. B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

Return of Sick, and Expenses of Maintenance, in the Rural District Gaol Hospitals.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PERSONS admitted into the undermentioned RURAL DISTRICT GAOL HOSPITALS, and the Mortality therein in the Years undermentioned.

Names of Gaols.	Number of Patients admitted to the undermentioned Gaol Hospitals.			Number of Deaths.			Total Expenses.
	African Blood.	Portuguese.	Coolies.	African Blood.	Portuguese.	Coolies.	
1838. Mahaica . .	10	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Wakenaam .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Capouey . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1839. Mahaica . .	7	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Wakenaam .	46	..	..	1	..	..	Nil.
,, Capouey . .	5	2	..	..	..	..	
1840. Mahaica . .	10	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Wakenaam .	8	..	..	..	..	..	33 dollars, 33 cents.
,, Capouey . .	42	1	..	1	..	..	
1841. Mahaica . .	16	..	..	..	..	..	20 dollars.
,, Wakenaam .	20	..	..	..	..	..	67 dollars, 51 cents.
,, Capouey . .	48	1	1	..	..	..	
1842. Mahaica . .	11	..	..	..	..	..	7 dollars, 75 cents.
,, Wakenaam .	38	1	..	1	..	..	117 dollars, 46 cents.
,, Capouey . .	111	8	..	..	..	..	
1843. Mahaica . .	8	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Wakenaam .	9	1	..	..	..	..	44 dollars, 44 cents.
,, Capouey . .	56	1	2	..	..	..	
1844. Mahaica . .	6	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Wakenaam .	8	1	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Capouey . .	32	1	..	..	..	..	Nil.
1845. Mahaica . .	17	..	..	..	..	..	
,, Wakenaam .	9	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
,, Capouey . .	24	..	2	..	..	..	Nil.
1846. Mahaica . .	13	41	..	..	..	..	16 dollars, 4 cents.
,, Wakenaam .	14	2	..	1	..	..	29 dollars, 83 cents.
,, Capouey . .	39	9	*17	..	..	*2	

* Not prisoners, but destitute persons, admitted for medical relief.
The Capouey Gaol Hospital Expenses are included in the General Expenses of the Gaol.

20th March, 1847.

B. WOLSELEY,
Acting Government Secretary.

Enclosure 6 in No. 24.

Police Magistrate's Report and Returns.

SIR, British Guiana, George Town Police Office, January 15th, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, in compliance with the order of his Excellency the Governor, a statement of the number of cases adjudicated in this office, since its establishment in 1839, to the 31st December, 1846.

By a reference to this return, it will be seen that there has been an increase of 192 in the number of convictions for theft in the last year over that of the preceding one, while, in convictions for breaches of the peace, there has been a decrease of 216, thus exhibiting in the aggregate amount of convictions, a falling off of 24.

The increase in the number of thefts is to be attributed principally to the access to the population of the city during the last year, but also in a great measure to the perseverance in crime of old offenders, some of whom seem to be incapable of reform by the means of punishment awarded them.

Of late, however, in consequence of the recurrence of these charges, I have, after taking depositions, generally referred the old offenders to a higher tribunal, where, if convicted, a more severe punishment is awarded than I can impose; and I am already beginning to perceive the beneficial effect of this mode of proceeding.

This may also apply, in many instances, to breaches of the peace, &c., a great number of which have been committed by old offenders, who have been repeatedly convicted of similar violations of the law, and thus swell up the calendar of crime, without any augmentation in the number of the delinquents themselves.

In this vast amount of cases, adjudicated by a single magistrate for a period of eight years, I am proud to say that there have been but about fifty appeals from the decisions, and in no instance has one of them been reversed.

I beg leave, further, to annex the required statement of the amount of fines recovered each year in this office since its establishment, and "paid over to the Receiver of Town Taxes, to be

BRITISH GUIANA

by him applied to the town funds;" from which it will be apparent that this institution entails but a trifling expense on the city at large. Trusting that these returns will prove satisfactory to his Excellency the Governor,

I have, &c.,
W. M'NULTY, LL.D.,
Police Magistrate, George Town.

Hon. W. B. Wolseley,
&c. &c.

CASES adjudicated by the POLICE MAGISTRATE from the 21st January, 1839, to the 31st December, 1846.

POLICE CASES.					INDIVIDUAL CASES.*					Total.
Thefts.			Breaches of the Peace.		Thefts.			Breaches of the Peace.		
Years.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Years.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	
1839	51	17	752	86	1839	331	128	390	659	2,414
1840	30	32	892	220	1840	359	112	575	602	2,822
1841	38	6	797	456	1841	367	105	556	810	3,135
1842	57	12	349	476	1842	385	100	492	1242	3,113
1843	23	14	554	305	1843	403	176	493	743	2,711
1844	23	15	557	236	1844	353	121	525	629	2,459
1845	7	12	448	263	1845	343	204	661	744	2,682
1846	6	21	295	437	1846	436	194	598	801	2,788
										22,124

* Personal Charges.

AMOUNT of FINES received at the POLICE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE and paid into the TOWN FUNDS, commencing from its first establishment on the 21st January, 1839, to the 31st December, 1846.

	Dolls.	Cents.
1839 . .	2,828	84
1840 . .	3,834	67
1841 . .	3 569	0
1842 . .	2,020	83
1843 . .	1,892	33
1844 . .	2,002	67
1845 . .	3,200	0
1846 . .	1,951	0
	21,299	34

Revenue and Expenditure, Rate of Taxation, Cattle slaughtered, City of George Town.

RETURN, shewing the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the MUNICIPAL CORPORATION of GEORGE TOWN, and the RATE of TAXATION, from the 1st January, 1838, to the 31st December, 1846, inclusive.

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		Rate of Taxation.
	Dolls.	Cents.	Dolls.	Cents.	
1838	65,786	62	62,859	0	1½ per cent.
1839	77,637	67	84,466	67	1¾ ,,
1840	114,216	0	117,146	0	1¾ ,,
1841	74,067	57	66,495	90	1¼ ,,
1842	57,112	58	76,818	95	1½ ,,
1843	68,647	5	62,510	0	1 ,,
1844	57,723	55	48,393	12	½ ,,
1845	59,793	0	52,318	5	½ ,,
1846	29,509	99	43,853	90	½ ,,

City of George Town, Demerara,
20th March, 1847.

H. A. POLLARD,
Secretary to the Town Council.

George Town, Demerara, 20th March, 1847.

EXTRACT of the NUMBER of HORNED CATTLE, CALVES, SHEEP, GOATS, and HOGS, slaughtered in the George Town Market, for the following Years, viz:—

Years.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Goats.	Hogs.
1838	2,803	386	739	312	2,829
1839	2,489	347	935	231	1,339
1840	3,006	208	840	110	1,316
1841	3,021	217	913	88	1,441
1842	3,047	115	1,370	77	1,876
1843	2,443	235	1,168	40	1,355
1844	2,323	265	1,368	100	2,069
1845	2,221	137	1,819	99	2,703
1846	2,312	153	2,065	48	2,383

J. F. PADMORE, Market Clerk.

George Town, Demerara, 20th March, 1847.

To account for the very large number of cattle slaughtered from the year 1838 to 1842 inclusive, it is necessary to state, that during those years, the market was entirely supplied with Creole cattle, of which a large proportion consisted of cows, steers, and heifers, the remnants of flocks now totally extinct. The years 1843 and 1844 supplies were about half Creole and half Oronoco, very heavy oxen. 1845 and 1846 have been all Oronoco cattle, excepting about 250 full-grown Creole oxen.

J. F. PADMORE, Clerk of the Market.

Cattle slaughtered at New Amsterdam, Berbice.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of CATTLE, SHEEP, and PIGS slaughtered in the Public Market of NEW AMSTERDAM, BERBICE, from 1st of January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

Date.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
1838	522	180	285	987
1839	461	123	348	932
1840	488	216	282	986
1841	409	190	252	851
1842	496	194	266	956
1843	524	207	300	1,031
1844	497	218	379	1,094
1845	441	277	524	1,242
1846	521	247	441	1,209
	4,359	1,852	3,077	9,288

New Amsterdam, Berbice, March 22, 1847.

R. A. HARRIS, Clerk of the Market.

Enclosure 7 in No. 24. Encl. 7 in No 24.

Hospital Statistics from 1838 *to* 1846.

ABSTRACT from the RECORDS of the DEMERARA COLONIAL and SEAMAN'S HOSPITALS, showing the Number of Patients treated Yearly; with Classification as to Sex, Age, and Race (Colour), from 1st January, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

TABLE A.

COLONIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL (OLD), including the BUILDING at present known as QUEEN'S COLLEGE, from 1841.

Years.	Admitted	Died.	Discharged.	Males.	Females.	Adults.	Under 15 Years, Children.	European	African.	Mulatto, mixed.	East Indian.	Total Annual Expense.
												Dolls. Cents.
1838	256	41	215	239	17	..	..	143	78	35	..	8,240 43
1839	815	111	704	659	156	..	..	..	..	..	..	36,735 33
1840 (1st half year)	823	73	750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1840 (2nd half year)	453	85	368	368	85	..	..	147	232	41*	..	29,432 30
1841	1,856	256	1,600	1,493	363	1,560	296	1,058	638	158	2	33,566 40
1842	3,062	392	2,670	2,053	1,009	2,355	707	2,595	350	115	2	43,228 88
Total	7,265	958	6,307	4,812	1,630	3,915	1,003	3,943	1,298	349	4	..

* Thirty-three race not recorded.

Abstract from the Records of the Demerara Colonial and Seaman's Hospitals, &c.—*continued.*

COLONIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL (NEW).

1843	1,471	158	1,313	1,102	369	1,240	231	788	533	142	8	30,544 75
1844	1,468	140	1,328	1,069	399	1,147	321	625	687	146	10	28,066 90
1845	1,531	204	1,327	1,208	323	1,356	175	562	739	162	68	31,164 85
1846	4,569	381	4,188	3,654	915	3,721	848	2,299	604	171	1,495	45,948 33
Total . . .	9,039	883	8,156	7,033	2,006	7,464	1,575	4,274	2,563	621	1,581	286,929 17
Grand Total . .	16,304	1,841	14,463	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..

NOTE.—The blanks in the table are owing to the imperfect state of the register for the three first years; 366 patients remain on the 31st December, 1846; they are here considered "discharged," in order to complete the table. By "mixed" race is meant mulatto and its varieties; but this column also includes South American Indians, of whom there are very few—perhaps about 20 in all. About 2000 out-door patients have received advice and medicine at the Dispensary of the Hospitals, exclusive of the above.

TABLE B.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

Years.	Admitted	Died.	Discharged.	Males.	Females.	Adults.	Under 15 Years, Children.	European	African.	Mulatto, mixed.	East Indian.	Total Annual Expense.
1842 . .	50	5	45	40	10	40	10	25	15	10	..	Included in expenses of Colonia Hospital.
1843 . .	11	2	9	7	4	5	6	8	3	..	..	
1845 . .	3	..	3	3	..	3	..	1	2	..	..	
1846 . .	9	..	9	8	1	7	2	..	..	..	9	
Total .	73	7	66	58	15	55	18	34	20	10	9	

TABLE C.

LUNATIC ASYLUM (Established in June, 1842).

Years.	Admitted	Died.	Discharged.	Males.	Females.	Adults.	Under 15 Years, Children.	European	African.	Mulatto, mixed.	East Indian.	Total Annual Expenditure.
1842 . .	36	4	11	26	10	36	..	2	31	3	..	Included in Expenses of Colonial Hospital.
1843 . .	41	8	27	30	11	41	..	4	33	4	..	
1844 . .	32	1	31	18	14	32	..	5	27	..	..	
1845 . .	39	7	30	29	10	37	2	4	34	1	..	
1846 . .	47	5	71	29	18	46	1	8	39	..	..	
Total .	195	25	170	132	63	192	3	23	164	8	..	

NOTE.—Twenty-five patients remain under treatment on the 31st December, 1846, but are considered as discharged, in order to complete the table.

The *bonâ fide* number of admissions into the Lunatic Asylum, is 135, the remaining 60 being re-admissions. One having been admitted eight times; one, four times; nine, three times; and 32, twice.

TABLE D.

SEAMAN'S HOSPITAL, from its Establishment on 24th December, 1838, to 31st December, 1846.

Years.	Admitted.	Died.	Discharged.	Total Annual Expenditure.
1838 (last seven days of) . .	7	3	4	. .
1839	817	129	688	The expenses for 1839 were voted jointly with those of the Colonial Hospital, and are included therein.
				Dolls. Cents.
1840	1,113	56	1,057	18,189 73
1841	1,337	137	1,200	21,121 86
1842	1,005	123	882	18,763 15
1843	662	27	635	12,030 10
1844	523	16	507	5,917 5
1845	779	12	767	6,075 60
1846	595	11	584	7,100 0
Total	6,838	514	6,324	89,197 49

NOTE.—Twenty-two remain on 31st December, 1846, but are considered as discharged, in order to complete the table.

DANIEL BLAIR, M.D.,
Surgeon-General, British Guiana.

BERBICE.

No. 1.

RETURN for each Year, of PERSONS Admitted into, and Discharged from, the GENERAL ASYLUM and HOSPITAL of BERBICE, from the 1st January, 1838, to the 31st December, 1841, including Seamen.

Year.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
1838	117	88	11
1839	103	74	35
1840	232	190	26
1841	396	334	40

Memorandum.—No classification for these years on record.

CHARLES WHINFIELD,
President of the Board.

No. 2.

RETURN for each Year of SEAMEN Admitted and Discharged from the GENERAL ASYLUM and HOSPITAL of BERBICE, from the 1st January, 1842, to the 31st December, 1846.

Year.	Admitted.	Discharged.		Remaining.
		Cured.	Dead.	
1842	148	144	4	..
1843	163	161	2	..
1844	115	112	..	3
1845	139	130	4	5
1846	99	95	1	3

CHARLES WHINFIELD,
President of the Board.

No. 3.

RETURN for each Year of PERSONS Admitted into, and Discharged from, the GENERAL ASYLUM and HOSPITAL of BERBICE, from the 1st January, 1842, to the 31st December, 1846.

Year.	Classification with regard to Colour.												Classification with regard to Sex.					
	White.			Brown.			Black.			Total.			Male.			Female.		
	Admitted.	Discharged.		Admitted.	Discharged.		Admitted.	Discharged.		Admitted.	Discharged.		Admitted.	Discharged.		Admitted.	Discharged.	
		Cured.	Dead.		Cured.	Dead.		Cured.	Dead.		Cured.	Dead.		Cured.	Dead.		Cured.	Dead.
1842	No classification on record.									230	116	41	185	90	33	45	22	8
1843										197	94	22	152	77	22	45	19	..
1844										104	76	20	94	61	17	10	15	3
1845	35	25	3	39	25	6	149	85	30	223	135	39	188	112	33	35	23	6
1846	106	65	13	42	25	5	443	291	43	591	381	61	525	435	54	66	44	7

Seamen for these Years included in a separate Return (No. 2).

CHARLES WHINFIELD,
President of the Board.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.

RETURN for each Year of the COST of the GENERAL ASYLUM and HOSPITAL of BERBICE, including In-door and Out-door Relief to Paupers, and to Aged and Infirm Persons, from the 1st January, 1838, to thd 31st December, 1846.

	Dolls.	Cents.
1838	2,408	33
1839	5,593	62
1840	6,310	92
1841	9,563	63
1842	12,053	25
1843	11,709	66
1844	10,642	40
1845	12,929	35
1846	18,194	36

CHARLES WHINFIELD,
President of the Board.

Mortality in George Town, Demerara, 1838-46.

ABSTRACT from the REGISTER of DEATHS in GEORGE TOWN and its precincts.

	Buried at the Expense of the Colony.	Buried at the Expense of the Poors' Fund.	Inhabitants and Sailors, *not buried at the* Expense of the Colony.	Total.
1838*	45	33	957	1035
1839	129	49	607	785
1840	165	36	462	663
1841	272	43	707	1022
1842	362	88	524	974
1843	152	85	389	626
1844	138	74	438	650
1845	205	96	442	743
1846†	393	100	540	1033
Jan. and Feb. 1847	119	21	48	188
Grand Total	1980	625	5114	7719

* In 1838, 12,000 Inhabitants. † In 1846, 25,000 Inhabitants.

George Town, Demerara, British Guiana,
26th March, 1847.

PAUL PARIS MASSIAH,
Colonial Sexton.

Mortality in New Amsterdam.

RETURN of BURIALS in NEW AMSTERDAM, BERBICE, during the undermentioned Years.

Years.	Whites.	Coloured.	Paupers.	Annual Number of Funerals.	Annual Amount of Fees.
	Dols. Cents.	Dols. Cents.	Dols. Cents.		Dols. Cents.
1838	12 at 7 33	79 at 5 50	31 at 1 84	122	579 50
1839	10 at 7 33	85 at 5 50	29 at 1 84	124	594 16
1840	26 at 7 33	77 at 5 50	30 at 1 84	133	669 28
1841	20 at 7 33	98 at 5 50	58 at 1 84	176	792 32
1842	19 at 7 33	80 at 5 50	49 at 1 84	148	669 33
1843	3 at 7 33	92 at 5 50	33 at 1 84	128	588 71
1844	10 at 7 33	93 at 5 50	29 at 1 84	132	630 16
1845	6 at 7 33	88 at 5 50	64 at 1 84	158	645 74
1846	8 at 7 33	97 at 5 50	88 at 1 84	193	754 6

A correct Return,
JOHN ADAMS,
Keeper of the Burial Ground,
County of Berbice.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 8 in No. 24.

Encl. 8 in No. 24.

Police.

RETURN of PRISONERS ARRESTED in the three COUNTIES of BRITISH GUIANA, from 16th February, 1843, to the 31st December, 1846, showing the Number of Prisoners Committed by the different Magistrates, and the Number Locked up for a Night, or Discharged after Interrogation.

Period.	Number of Prisoners Arrested.	Number of Prisoners Committed by the different Magistrates.	Number of Prisoners Locked up for a Night, or Discharged after Interrogation.	Remarks.
From 16th February to 31st December, 1843	2,820	1,533	1,287	
From 1st January to 31st December, 1844 .	3,276	1,826	1,450	
,, ,, 1845 .	2,709	1,426	1,283	
,, ,, 1846 .	4,326	2,389	1,937	
Total Number for County Demerara .	13,131	7,174	5,957	
From 16th February to 31st December, 1843	173	136	37	
From 1st January to 31st December, 1844 .	278	152	126	
,, ,, 1845 .	271	142	129	
,, ,, 1846 .	251	198	53	
Total Number for County Essequibo .	973	628	345	
From 16th February to 31st December, 1843	460	420	40	
From 1st January to 31st December, 1844 .	558	374	184	
,, ,, 1845 .	539	367	172	
,, ,, 1846 .	694	511	183	
Total Number for County Berbice .	2,251	1,672	579	
Grand Total for the three Counties, B. G.	16,355	9,474	6,881	

There are no records in this office of arrests of prisoners or their disposal previous to the appointment of the present Inspector-General, 16 Feb., 1843.

IVAN WATERSCHOODT,
Inspector-General, P.F.

RETURN of POLICE FORCE when it was put under Inspector-General in 1839.

Year.	Inspector-General.	Inspectors.	Sergeant-Majors.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Rank and File.	Boat or River.	Horse Patrole.	Horses.
1839	1	3	..	21	..	129	12	..	25

IVAN WATERSCHOODT,
Inspector-General, P.F.

Enclosure 9 in No. 24.

Encl. 9 in No. 24.

Return of Sums paid from the Colonial Treasury for Education.

SUMMARY RETURN of the AMOUNT paid from the COLONAL REVENUE for the EDUCATION of the LABOURING CLASSES in the Counties of DEMERARA, ESSEQUEBO, and BERBICE in the Years under mentioned.

	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Demerara	145 16 8	1,262 18 5¼	298 13 10¾	958 0 11½	823 17 7¼	790 9 2	1,053 16 5½	1,369 11 8	1,309 5 5
Essequebo	Nil.	823 2 4¾	Nil.	397 12 1	845 4 2	880 0 7½	599 7 6	591 19 7	590 4 2
Berbice .	Nil.	1,209 9 7	Nil.	778 12 11	451 7 1	299 13 9	456 19 7	574 17 11	617 16 3

W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Government Secretary.

Encl. 10 in No. 24.

Enclosure 10 in No. 24.

Expenses for the Poor.

SUMMARY RETURN of the AMOUNT paid from the COLONIAL REVENUE for the RELIEF of the POOR in the Counties of DEMERARA, ESSEQUEBO, and BERBICE in the Years under mentioned, including a part from the Rural Parishes; the Amount paid, under the direction of the "Board of Cnurch and Poor Fund," to Paupers and helpless Invailds in the City of George Town.

	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
City of George Town .	Nil.	694 8 10¾	1,250 0 0	625 0 0	625 0 0	1,666 13 4	5,066 13 4	5,270 16 8	6,145 16 8
Rural Parishes:—									
In Demerara . . .	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	237 18 4	161 13 4	316 10 7½	728 6 8
In Essequebo . . .	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	12 10 0	155 8 4	593 5 7½	630 18 9	895 0 0	578 1 10½
In Berbice . . .	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	31 5 0	Nil.	18 16 5	Nil.	5 0 0

W. B. WOLSELEY, Acting Government Secretary.

Encl. 11 in No. 24.

Enclosure 11 in No. 24.

Penal Settlement.

RETURN of PRISONERS ADMITTED and DISCHARGED during the Years 1842 to 1846 inclusive.

	Admitted.						Discharged.					
	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	Total.	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	Total.
January	..	12	7	4	14	..	..	21	23	12	15	..
February	..	26	22	20	15	..	..	12	18	19	23	..
March	..	28	6	18	12	..	..	20	8	11	6	..
April	..	16	9	13	22	..	..	13	8	5	10	..
May	..	35	7	21	24	..	..	28	15	24	16	..
June	64	18	17	8	22	..	..	19	6	16	16	..
July	13	17	14	12	10	..	11	18	16	10	21	..
August	30	27	21	21	44	..	8	30	11	21	32	..
September	19	13	7	7	16	..	16	15	6	6	19	..
October	15	12	11	13	33	..	14	14	10	12	16	..
November	17	11	15	24	8	..	17	23	23	24	15	..
December	27	23	24	19	29	..	22	14	14	20	14	..
Total	185	238	160	180	249	1,012	88	227	158	180	203	856

Correct to 31st December, 1846.

(Signed) WILLIAM CRICHTON, Superintendent,
Febuary 10, 1847.

True Copy,
A. F. BAIRD, Acting Assist. Gov. Secretary.

RETURN, showing the CRIMES for which the PRISONERS were SENTENCED in 1842 to 1846 inclusive.

	Murder.	Rape.	Arson.	Homicide.	Burglary.	Assault.	Forgery.	Theft.	Housebreaking.	Fraud.	Manslaughter.	Breaking out of Gaol.	Stabbing.	Escaping.	Rioting.	Cutting & Wounding.	Causing Death.	Desertion.	Bestiality.	Highway Robbery.	Contempt of Court.	Total.
1842	2	3	2	1	14	13	2	141	1	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1843	..	1	..	1	15	24	2	192	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1844	1	1	..	2	12	23	..	112	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	5	1	..	..	..
1845	..	7	..	1	2	33	..	124	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
1846	1	3	..	3	3	23	1	190	..	..	3	..	..	2	14	1	..	3	..	..	2	..
Total	4	15	2	8	46	116	5	759	1	4	5	1	1	3	24	3	1	8	1	3	2	1012

To 31st December, 1846.

(Signed) WILLIAM CRICHTON, Superintendent,
February 10, 1847.

True Copy,
A. F. BAIRD, Acting Assist. Gov. Secretary.

RETURN of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the PENAL SETTLEMENT for the Years 1842 to 1846 inclusive.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	R. Excess E.	
	Dollars. Cents.	Dollars. Cents.	Dollars. Cents.	Dollars. Cents.
1842	6,047 0	12,325 10	. .	6,278 10
1843	16,973 30	25,882 58	. .	8,909 28
1844	29,000 0	18,069 43	10,930 57	. .
1845	29,000 0	19,803 23	9,196 77	. .
1846	25,909 23	22,145 12	3,764 11	. .

The revenue is derived from the improvement of the Settlement, in the erection of the necessary buildings, and in the cultivation of provisions; in the diminution of the direct outlay for food. A considerable portion of the labour must be applied for some time in the construction of buildings yet required.

A revenue may in future be expected from the sawing of Greenheart and other timber on the saw-pits just completed.

In consequence of certain of the works having been commenced early in 1844, and continued to 1846, it is impossible to separate the items as properly belonging to each separate year.

A detail of the items is therefore affixed to the return.

The expenditure comprises the food and clothing of the convicts, carpenters, coopers, masons, and stone quarriers' tools, steel, iron, and blacksmiths' tools, coals for the smithy, lime, tar, pitch, rosin, paints and oil, nails, lumber, medicines, hoes, shovels, cutlasses, and felling axes, also the salaries of the respective officers of the establishment.

A DETAILED STATEMENT of the items of REVENUE for the Years 1844 to 1846 inclusive, viz.:—

	Dollars.	Cents.
Removing wooden tower, dormant windows, laying two floors, and closing in the building used as a chapel	1,500	0
Making a cassada mill	80	0
Cart with two wheels	80	0
12 wheelbarrows	50	0
Logie, for the manufacture of cassada bread	150	0
New galleries to the quarters of the Assistant Superintendent and Chief Constable, with sundry other repairs	400	0
Improvement on 150 acres of land, in cutting down and clearing the forest, making roads, dams, trenches, surface draining, and putting in cultivation a great portion	15,000	0
Value of crops reaped in diminution of the direct outlay for food	5,000	0
12,000 tons of stone, by measurement, quarried and used in forming the sites for the saw-pits and logie for the plank, wharfs and river wall, and roadway, 1 dollar each	12,000	0
New stone prison and tower	25,000	0
Two saw-pits built on 30 massive cut stone pillars, capable of working 40 whip saws, with 16 apartments in the attics	10,000	0
Materials delivered in 1844.		
Work done on Kaoo Bland	1,369	0
142 tons road metal 37 tons stone	257	0
1,460 tons road metal Town Council, 2 dollars	2,920	0
Materials delivered in 1845.		
7,300 tons of stone	7,300	0
Provisions to Lazaretto	150	0
10 empty hogsheads, C. R. Croal	20	0
Delivered in 1846.		
2,026 tons of stone	2,026	0
14,347 feet of 1½ inch plank, at 11 cents	1,575	0
6,533 feet of 2 inch plank, at 13 cents	849	0
5,205 feet of 2 inch plank, at 20 cents	1,040	0
Provisions, medicines, and four coffins to the Lazaretto	439	0
Making two new Batteaux	120	0
118 slabs, f. 2	78	67
210 Tacuba posts, at 20 cents	42	0
1,025 paling staves, at 4 cents	41	0
564 feet railing, at 4 cents	22	56
Total	83,909	23

BRITISH GUIANA.

Divided as follows:—

	Dollars.	Cents.
1844 . . .	29,000	0
1845 . . .	29,000	0
1846 . . .	25,909	23

On hand, about 30,000 feet of 1½, 2, and 2½ inch plank, and a load of slabs and materials cut and hauled out for the erection of the Logie required at the waterside to protect the plank from sun and rain, and for the carpenters to work under.

There is no value put down for the cutting and clearing the two hauling paths, nearly two miles in extent, on which was necessarily expended much labour.

Three hundred bread trees have been planted, which are all growing.

(Signed) WILLIAM CRICHTON, Superintendent.

February 23, 1847.

True Copy,
A. F. BAIRD, Acting Assist. Gov. Secretary.

Enc'. 12 in No. 24.

Enclosure 12 in No. 24.

Harbour Master's Report of Demerara and Berbice Rivers, 1838 *to* 1846.

Harbour Master's Office, January 25, 1847.

A RETURN of the NUMBER of VESSELS, and the Amount of TONNAGE, Entered the Port of Demerara, in the undermentioned Years.

Date.	Number of Vessels.	Amount of Tonnage.	Remarks.
For the 12 months ending 31st Dec., 1838	504	93,535	These numbers do not include vessels from Berbice, nor vessels in Her Majesty's service.
,, ,, 1839	524	81,273	
,, ,, 1840	552	92,838	
,, ,, 1841	610	97,161	
,, ,, 1842	480	78,662	
,, ,, 1843	491	78,316	
,, ,, 1844	464	76,031	
,, ,, 1845	593	113,355	
,, ,, 1846	641	107,820	

HUBERT C. SOUTHEY,
Harbour Master.

To His Excellency Governor Light,
&c. &c. &c.

RETURN of the NUMBER of VESSELS and TONNAGE arrived at the Port of Berbice, from 1st January, 1838 to 31st December, 1846, for each Year.

Year.	Number of Vessels.	Amount of Tonnage.	Remarks.
1838	163	21,888	The increase in this last year is partly attributable to many of the colony droghers having commenced a carrying trade between this and Surinam, and entering and clearing upon each voyage.
1839	138	16,853	
1840	157	21,027	
1841	143	17,829	
1842	103	14,058	
1843	109	14,785	
1844	98	13,031	
1845	89	15,838	
1846	170	20,002	

JOHN DALY,
Harbour Master.

Berbice, January 1, 1847.

Enclosure 13 in No. 24.

Immigration.

IMMIGRATION TABLE from the 1st January, 1835. to 31st December, 1846.

Year.	Whence.																					Under the Colonial Bounty fixed by Proclamation of 16th February, 1841, and 5th August, 1842, or at the Expense of the Colony, without regard to any fixed Sum.	Paying their own Passages, or having their Passages paid by Persons to whom they indentured themselves, until such Money was repaid.	Period of the Year Introduced.	Total Number in each Year.	Amount of Bounty Paid.
	British West India and Bahama Islands.											British Possessions in India or elsewhere.				Foreign Possessions.										
	St. Vincent.	Barbados.	St. Lucia.	Dominica.	Antigua.	Tobago and Tortola	Montserrat.	Nevis.	St. Kitts.	Anguilla.	New Providence.	Calcutta.	Madras.	St. Helena.	Sierra Leone.	St. Thomas.	St. Bartholomews.	Sf. Eustatius.	Madeira.	Rio Janeiro.	Surinam.	Martinique and Guadaloupe.				Dols. cts.
1835	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	429	..	..	..	..	586		586	
1836	..	46	..	..	183	88	48	65	356	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	143	31	..	..	..	143	..	1,124		1,124	
1837	..	1	..	293	52	62	43	..	..	148	99	..	..	..	..	4	707	2	..	..	252	132	..	1,795		1,795	
1838	..	2	88	219	1	2	..	40	46	..	255	406	..	..	..	16	298	..	..	91	58	388	..	1,910		1,910	
1839	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	18	..	..	..	..	155	..	192		192	
1840	..	837	..	4	16	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	876		876	
1841	..	2,199	..	91	127	3	14	..	47	259	..	..	..	..	415	51	..	..	4,312	578	..	..	8,096	..		8,096	
1842	41	176	25	..	..	2	122	32	21	52	..	..	..	1,112	148	13	..	..	348	563	..	..	2,655	..		2,655	
1843	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	239	..	..	..	..	..	31	..	356	..		550	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	..	..	112	..	194			
1844	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	378	..	..	..	..	145	..	..	523	..		918	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140	..	..	255	..	395			
1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	583	233	..	1,425	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,241	..		3,631	
	..	555	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	167	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	668	..	..	..	..	1,390			
1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,513	2,506	819	278	..	..	..	1,865	..	..	..	6,981	..		11,519	
	..	357	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,110	..	..	..	..	4,538			
	41	4,173	113	607	379	157	227	294	470	480	641	2,502	2,739	2,017	2,883	105	1,166	33	11,917	1,377	345	1,186	20,852	13,000		33,852	723,674 30

WILLIAM HUMPHREYS, Immigration Agent-General.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Encl. 14 in No. 24.

Enclosure 14 in No. 24.

Nominal List of Estates in Cultivation in British Guiana on 1st January, 1838, and 31st December, 1846.

List of Estates, Sugar or Coffee, existing in Cultivation in the three Counties of British Guiana, viz., Demerara, Essequebo, and Berbice, on the 1st of January, 1838, and the 31st of December, 1846.

In Cultivation on the 1st of January, 1838.		In Cultivation on the 31st of December, 1846.	
EAST COAST OF DEMERARA.			
Plantation Thomas	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Kitty	,,	,,	,,
Belair	,,	,,	,,
Sophia	Coffee	United with Belair	Sugar & coffe
Turkeyan	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Cumingslodge	,,	,,	,,
Industry	,,	,,	,,
Ogle	,,	,,	,,
Goede Verwachting	,,	,,	,,
Beter Hoop	,,	,,	,,
Vryheid's Lust	,,	,,	,,
Brothers	Coffee	,,	Coffee.
Montrose	Sugar	,,	Sugar.
Felicity	,,	,,	,,
Le Resouvenir	,,	,,	,,
Success	,,	,,	,,
Chateau Margo	,,	,,	,,
La bonne Intention	,,	,,	,,
Beter Verwachting	Coffee	Sold to negro labourers	. .
Triumph	Cotton	In cultivation	Plantains.
Mon Repos	Sugar	,,	Sugar.
Good Hope	Coffee and cotton.	,,	. .
Lusignan	Sugar	,,	Sugar.
Annandale	,,	,,	,,
New Orange Nassau	Cotton and plantains.	Sold to negro labourers	. .
Friendship	,, ,,	,, ,,	. .
Vigilance	,, ,,	In cultivation	Plantains.
Bladenhall	,, ,,	,,	,,
Nonpareil	,, ,,	Converted into sugar	. .
Enterprise	Sugar & coffee	In cultivation	Sugar.
Paradise	Cotton and coffee.	Converted into sugar	. .
Enmore	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
John and Cove	,,	,,	,,
Bellefield	,,	,,	,,
Lowlands	,,	,,	,,
Hope	,,	,,	,,
Dochfour	,,	,,	,,
Ann's Grove	Cotton and sugar.	,,	,,
Clonbrook	Sugar	,,	,,
New Beehive	,,	,,	,,
Greenfield	,,	,,	,,
Orange Nassau (now Grove).	,,	,,	,,
MAHAICA CREEK.			
Plantation Spring Hall	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Good Hope	,,	,,	,,
Helena and Uplands	,,	,,	,,
Belmont	,,	,,	,,
Supply	,,	,,	,,
La bonne Mère	,,	,,	,,
Melville	,,	,,	,,
Cane Grove	,,	,,	,,
Woodlands	Cotton and coffee.	Abandoned	. .
Bushy Park	Cotton	,,	. .
Sarah	,,	,,	. .
Farm	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Fellowship	,,	,,	,,

List of Estates, &c.—*continued.*

In Cultivation on the 1st of January, 1838.		In Cultivation on the 31st of December, 1846.	
WEST COAST OF DEMERARA.			
Plantation Best	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Nouvelle Flanders	,,	,,	,,
Hawilem	,,	,,	,,
Windsor Forest	,,	,,	,,
La Jalousie.	,,	,,	,,
Blankinburg	,,	,,	,,
Den Amstel	Coffee	Abandoned	. .
Hague	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Cornelia Ida	,,	,,	,,
Anna Catharina	,,	,,	,,
Edinburgh	Coffee	In plantains	. .
Groeneveld	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Leonora	,,	,,	,,
Vrees and Hoop (now Stuart Ville).	,,	,,	,,
Uitvlugt	,,	,,	,,
Zeeberg	,,	,,	,,
William	,,	,,	,,
Met and Meerzorg	,,	,,	,,
De Kinderen	,,	,,	,,
Zeelucht	,,	,,	,,
Tusschen de Vrienden	,,	,,	,,
Het Vergenvegen	,,	,,	,,
Philadelphia	,,	,,	,,
St. Christopher	,,	,,	,,
Greenwich Park	,,	,,	,,
WEST SIDE RIVER DEMERARA.			
Plantation Vreeden Hoop	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Klein Pouderoyen	Coffee	,,	Coffee.
Malgré Tout	Sugar & coffee	,,	Sugar.
Versailles	,, ,,	,,	,,
Goed Fortuin	Coffee	,,	Coffee.
Schoon Oord	Coffee & sugar	,,	Sugar.
La Grange	Sugar	,,	,,
Nismes	,,	,,	,,
Towlugt	Coffee	,,	Coffee.
La Retraite	,,	Rented to labourers.	. .
Bellevue	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Good Intent	Coffee & sugar	,,	,,
Wales	Sugar	,,	,,
Vriesland	,,	,,	,,
Vive la Force	,,	,,	,,
Potosi	,,	,,	,,
Maria's Lodge	,,	,,	,,
Vredestein	,,	,,	,,
Chantilly	,,	,,	,,
Glasgow	,,	,,	,,
EAST SIDE RIVER DEMERARA.			
Plantation Garden of Eden	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Friendship	,,	,,	,,
New Hope	,,	Abandoned.	. .
Golden Grove	,,	In cultivation.	Sugar.
Great Diamond	,,	,,	,,
Little Diamond	,,	,,	,,
Covent Garden	Coffee	,,	Coffee.
Farm and Vrede and Rust	Sugar & coffee	,,	Sugar & coffee.
Herstelling	,, ,,	,,	,, ,,
Providence	,, ,,	,,	Sugar.
Peter's Hall	Sugar	,,	,,
Velzerhoofd (now Eccles)	Coffee	Partly converted into sugar	. .
Rome and Houston	Sugar & coffee	In cultivation	Sugar.
Ruimveld	,, ,,	,,	,,
La Penitence	,, ,,	,,	,,
Le Repentir	Coffee	,,	Coffee.
Werk and Rust	,,	Sold out in lots to labourers.	. .
Vlissingen	,,	Partly in cultivation of plantains and coffee.	. .

List of Estates, &c.—*continued.*

In Cultivation on the 1st of January, 1838.			In Cultivation on the 31st of December, 1845.	
EAST SIDE RIVER DEMERARA—*continued.*				
CANAL, No. 1.				
Plantation La Parfaite Harmonie	Coffee	. .	Abandoned.	. .
Onderneeming	,,		Rented by labourers for the half.	. .
Java and Regtdoor Zee	,,		Regtdoor Zee kept up; Java abandoned.	. .
De Kinderen	,,		Abandoned.	. .
Two Brothers	,,		,,	. .
Vrede and Vriendschap	,,		,,	. .
Tenez Ferme	,,		,,	. .
Nooit Gedagt	,,		In cultivation	Coffee.
Anna Catharina	,,		,,	,,
Le Désir	,,		Half abandoned and half kept up.	,,
Genève	,,		Abandoned.	. .
Mes Delices	,,		,,	. .
Beau Voisin	,,		Half abandoned and half kept up.	. .
Vauxhall and Westminster.	,,		Vauxhall's cultivation abandoned; Westminster kept up.	. .
Orangefield	,,		In cultivation	Coffee.
Ostende	,,		Abandoned.	. .
L'Heureuse Aventure	,,		,,	. .
L'Esperance	,,		,,	. .
Mon Bijou	,,		,,	. .
CANAL, No. 3.				
Plantation Arcadia	Coffee	. .	Part sold out in lots, other part in cultivation.	. .
Het Haagsche Bosch	,,		In cultivation	Coffee.
Henry	,,		,,	Sugar.
Profit	Sugar	. .	,,	,,
ESSEQUEBO.—ISLAND OF LEGUAN.				
Plantation Amsterdam	Sugar	. .	In cultivation	Sugar.
Waterloo	,,		,,	,,
Bellefield	,,		,,	,,
Blenheim	,,		,,	,,
Canefields	,,		,,	,,
Cane Garden	,,		Abandoned; rented for pasture.	. .
Clairmont	,,		In cultivation	Sugar.
Doornhaag	,,		,,	,,
Elizabeth Ann	,,		Abandoned.	. .
Endeavour	,,		In cultivation	Sugar.
Henriette	,,		,,	,,
Mary Ville	,,		,,	,,
New Oosterbeck	,,		,,	,,
Pleasing Hope	,,		,,	,,
Retrieve	,,		,,	,,
Richmond Hill	,,		,,	,,
Success	,,		,,	,,
Vertrouwen	,,		,,	,,
Uniform	,,		,,	,,
Vrouw Anna	,,		,,	,,
Wisselvalligheid	,,		,,	,,
Enterprise	,,		,,	,,
ISLAND OF WAKENAAM.				
Plantation Amersfoort	Sugar	. .	In cultivation	Sugar.
Arthurville	,,		,,	,,
Bank Hall	,,		,,	,,
Belle Plaine	,,		,,	,,
Caledonia	,,		,,	,,
Concordia	,,		,,	,,
Domburg	,,		,,	,,
Friendship	,,		,,	,,
Good Success	,,		,,	,,

List of Estates, &c.—*continued.*

In Cultivation on the 1st of January, 1838.			In Cultivation on the 31st of December, 1846.	
Plantation Maria Johanna	Sugar		In cultivation	Sugar.
Maria's Pleasure	,,		,,	,,
Marion Ville	,,		,,	,,
Meerzorg	,,		,,	,,
New Bendorff	,,		,,	,,
Palmyra	,,		,,	,,
Ridge	,,		,,	,,
Sans Souci	,,		,,	,,
Sarah	,,		,,	,,
Zeelandia	,,		,,	,,
HOG ISLAND.				
Plantation Hoop and Vrees	Sugar		In cultivation	Sugar.
Endeavour	,,		,,	,,
Johanna	,,		,,	,,
TIGER ISLAND.				
Plantation Hofvan Holland	Sugar		In cultivation	Sugar.
Sophienburg	,,		,,	,,
Hamburg	,,		,,	,,
WEST COAST OF ESSEQUEBO.				
Plantation Spring Garden	Sugar		In cultivation	Sugar.
Good Intent	,,		,,	,,
Aurora	,,		,,	,,
Hibernia	,,		,,	,,
Vilvoorden	,,		,,	,,
Middlesex	,,		,,	,,
Net Huiste Dieren	,,		,,	,,
Adventure	,,		,,	,,
Onderneming	,,		,,	,,
Batseba's Lust	,,		,,	,,
Zorg	,,		,,	,,
Golden Fleece	,,		,,	,,
Perseverance	,,		,,	,,
Cullen	,,		,,	,,
Annandale	,,		,,	,,
Hofvan Aurich	,,		,,	,,
Union	,,		,,	,,
Dageraad and Mocca	Coffee		Abandoned; sold out in lots.	
Taymouth Manor	Sugar		In cultivation	Sugar.
Affiance	,,		,,	,,
Columbia	,,		,,	,,
Aberdeen	,,		,,	,,
Three Friends	,,		,,	,,
Land of Plenty	,,		,,	,,
Reliance	,,		,,	,,
Mainstay	,,		,,	,,
Anna Regina	,,		,,	,,
Henrietta	,,		,,	,,
Richmond	,,		,,	,,
La belle Alliance	,,		,,	,,
Lima	,,		,,	,,
Fear-not	,,		,,	,,
Caledonia	Coffee		Only a few acres in plantains.	
Coffee Grove	Sugar		In cultivation	Sugar.
Sparta	,,		,,	,,
Windsor Castle	,,		,,	,,
Hampton Court	,,		,,	,,
Better Success	,,		,,	,,
Devonshire Castle	,,		,,	,,
Walton Hall	,,		,,	,,
Exmouth and Dartmouth	Cotton and coffee.		Nearly abandoned.	
Perth and Duncald	,,	,,	In plantains and pasture.	
Evergreen	,,	,,	Abandoned.	
Dumbarton Castle	Coffee		A few acres in plantains; part sold out in lots.	
Westfield	,,		Sold out in lots.	

List of Estates, &c.—*continued.*

In Cultivation on the 1st of January, 1838.		In Cultivation on the 31st of December, 1846.	
BERBICE.			
Plantation Anna Clementina	Coffee	Abandoned.	
Augsburg	,,	In cultivation	Coffee.
Bellevue	,,	,,	,,
Bestendigheid	,,	,,	,,
Bloemhoff	,,	Abandoned.	
Blyendaal	,,	,,	
Broers Lust	,,	,,	
Buse's Lust	,,	,,	
Dankbaarheid	,,	,,	
De Kinderen	,,	,,	
De Liefde	,,	,,	
Deutichem	,,	In cultivation	Coffee.
Enterprize	,,	Abandoned.	
Gebroeders	,,	In cultivation	Coffee.
Gelderland	,,	Rented to negro labourers.	
Goed Banana Land	,,	Abandoned.	
La Fraternité	,,	Rented to negro labourers.	
La Prudence	,,	Abandoned.	
Land of Canaan	,,	,,	
L'Esperance	,,	In cultivation	Coffee.
Lonsdale	,,	,,	,,
Lusttot Rust	,,	,,	,,
Mara and Germania	,,	Now converted into sugar.	
Nieuw Hoop	,,	Abandoned.	
Nomen Nescio	,,	,,	
Resolutie	,,	,,	
Rossfield	,,	In cultivation	Coffee.
Rotterdam	,,	,,	,,
Sandvoort	,,	Abandoned.	
Schep Moed	,,	,,	
S'Gravenhage	,,	In cultivation	Coffee.
Vryberg	,,	Abandoned.	
Vryheid	,,	,,	
Welgelegen	,,	,,	
Zuidwyk	,,	Converted into sugar.	
Albion	Cotton	,,	
Golden Fleece	,,	Abandoned.	
Kilcoy	,,	,,	
Litchfield	,,	,,	
Naarstigheid	,,	Converted into sugar.	
Union	,,	Abandoned.	
Adelphi	Sugar	In cultivation	Sugar.
Alness	,,	,,	,,
Balthyock	,,	,,	,,
Berbice Sawmill (now called Smythfield.)	,,	,,	,,
Blairmount	,,	,,	,,
Canefield	,,	,,	,,
Cotton Tree	,,	,,	,,
Eliza and Mary	,,	,,	,,
Everton	,,	,,	,,
Enfield	,,	Abandoned.	
Friends	,,	In cultivation	Sugar.
Foulis	,,	,,	,,
Goldstone Hall	,,	,,	,,
Hampshire	,,	,,	,,
Hanover	,,	,,	,,
Herstelling	,,	Abandoned.	
Highbury	,,	In cultivation	Sugar
Hope and Experiment	,,	,,	,,
Lochaber	,,	,,	,,
Ma Retraite	,,	,,	,,
Mary's Hope	,,	Abandoned.	
New Forest	,,	In cultivation	Sugar.
Philadelphia	,,	,,	,,
Port Mourant	,,	,,	,,
Profit	,,	Abandoned.	
Prospect	,,	In cultivation	Sugar
Providence	,,	,,	,,
Reliance	,,	,,	,,
Rose Hall	,,	,,	,,
Skeldon	,,	,,	,,
Smithson's Place	,,	,,	,,
Standvastigheid	,,	,,	,,
Waterloo	,,	,,	,,
Woodley Park	,,	,,	,,

N.B.—There are very few of the coffee estates in Berbice fully kept up, although not altogether abandoned.

RECAPITULATION.

Total Number of Estates in Cultivation on the 1st of January, 1838:—

In Demerara and Essequebo . . .	233	
In Berbice	75	
		308

Total Number of Estates in Cultivation on the 31st of December, 1846:—

In Demerara and Essequebo . . .	204	
In Berbice	47	
		251
Abandoned in Demerara and Essequebo .	29	
Ditto in Berbice	28	
	—	57
		308

M. J. RETEMEYER, Colonial Receiver-General.

Colonial Receiver's Office, George Town,
4th February, 1847.

Enclosure 15 in No. 24.

Encl. 15 in No. 24.

Summary of Affairs in hands of Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequebo.

SUMMARY of ESTATES or TRUSTS which have devolved to the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequebo, from the commencement of his office 18th February, 1845, to 18th February, 1847.

Firstly.

Trusts emanating from the late Board of Orphans of Demerara and Essequebo.

The trusts which were under the administration of the late Board of Orphans consisted of the estates of parties who had died intestate, and estates of parties absent without being represented in the colony. On examination the Administrator-General found a great many trusts, the administration of which were closed, leaving, however, a balance of administration claimable by heirs or other parties legally interested.

The number of trusts of this description amounted to 77

Of these trusts the Administrator-General has closed, either by paying out the balances to the parties interested, or depositing such balances in the colony chest; the estates so closed amounting to 77

And the amount of money paid out and deposited in regard to these is 26,988 dols., 25 cts.

With regard to those estates in which the administration was begun, but not completed by the Board of Orphans, the Administrator-General treated them as new estates, and administered to them as such; the number of such trusts being 55

Of which the Administrator-General has finally closed the number of 40

And of those estates not hitherto closed by the Administrator-General, he has paid first dividends to the creditors, the number of such estates being 6

The amount of money paid out in the administration and division of these estates by the Administrator-General is . . . . . 22,882 dols., 40 cts.

Secondly.

Estates emanating from the Honourable the Supreme Court of Civil Justice.

The total number of such estates which have hitherto devolved to the Administrator-General is 166

These trusts or estates may be divided into two classes:—

1st. Guardianships of minors or persons incapable of managing their own affairs; in such the trust necessarily extends over a series of years, lasting in the case of minors during the minority of the parties, and in other cases during the existence of the incapacity to act. The total number of such trusts is 86

Of these there has been closed during the Administrator-General's administration a number of 4

2nd. Administratorships of insolvent estates, or of estates of which administratorship has been granted *cum testamento annexo*. These trusts amount to 98

Of these the Administrator-General has finally closed a number of 26

And in estates not finally closed he has paid a first dividend to the creditors; the number of such estates being 6

And the amount of money paid out by him in these trusts is . 68,755 dols., 66 cts.

Thirdly.

Trusts or administrations originally devolving since the date of the Administrator-General's appointment, consisting of estates of parties dying intestate, estates of deceased parties which are found to be unrepresented, estates of parties absent from the colony without having a legal

BRITISH GUIANA.

representative to protect their interests, and estates of applicants for the benefit of the Insolvent Act.

The total amount of these estates is 154

Of these the Administrator-General has finally closed by realizing and collecting the assets, and dividing the same amongst the creditors or parties legally entitled, a number of 39

And out of the said estates, which are not yet finally closed, he has paid dividends; the amount of such estates is 5

The amount of money so paid out by him is . . . . 15, 350 dols., 12 cts.

Summary of the foregoing:—

Total of estates falling under administration 452

Of which closed or divided 203

Total of money paid out in such administrations . . . 133,976 dols., 43 cts.

General Remarks.

It is proper to observe, that although the office of Administrator-General has existed for two years, the estates before referred to have not been for the whole of that period under the administration of the Administrator-General.

In regard to the Board of Orphans, much time was necessarily occupied in examining its position generally, and in examining and taking over the individual trusts, many of them of a complicated nature, and having in them great masses of documents, as well as books of account, so that the administration of a considerable number of these estates did not actually commence for 6 or 12 months after the Administrator-General was appointed.

In regard to the Court of Justice, the trusts have come to the Administrator-General from time to time as they were intimated to him, and as former accounting parties delivered them.

A great proportion of these estates were not actually delivered to the Administrator-General till about 12 months after his appointment. Much time was necessarily occupied in examining the nature and position of these trusts, and the transactions of the former administrators, as well as in making inventories of the property, books, and documents of the trusts.

There have also devolved to the Administrator-General, in conjunction with a co-sequestrator, certain sequestrations of plantations, in number 8

Of which he has closed the number of 4

JOHN KENNEDY,
Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequebo.

March 3, 1847.

Summary of Affairs in hands of Administrator-General of Berbice.

Administrator-General's Office, Berbice,
19th March, 1847.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a return of estates or trusts which have devolved to my administration from the 18th February, 1845, to 18th February, 1847, which, in obedience to the commands of his Excellency the Governor, I have drawn up as near as practicable to that furnished by the Administrator-General of Demerara, and which I trust will meet with the approbation of his Excellency.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) L. HOUSTON,
Administrator-General, Berbice.

The Hon. W. B. Wolseley,
Acting Government Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

COUNTY BERBICE.

SUMMARY of ESTATES or TRUSTS which have devolved to the ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL of BERBICE, from the commencement of his office, 18th February, 1845, to 18th February, 1847.

Firstly.

Trust amounting from the late Board of Orphans of Berbice:—

The trusts which were under the administration of the late Board of Orphans consisted of the estates of parties who had died intestate, and estates of parties having wills, but whose executors were absent, or had renounced the executorship. On examination, the Administrator-General found a great many trusts the administration of which were closed, leaving, however, a balance of administration claimable by heirs or other parties legally interested.

The number of trusts of this description amounted to 84

Of these trusts the Administrator-General has closed, either by paying out the balances to the parties interested, or depositing such balances in the colony chest. The estates so closed amount in number to 84

And the amount of money paid out and deposited in regard to these is, 12,306 dols. 70 cts.

With regard to those estates in which the administration was began but not completed by the Board of Orphans, the Administrator-General treated them as new estates, and administered to them as such; the number of such trusts being 37

Of which the Administrator-General has finally closed the number of 18

And of these estates not hitherto closed by the Administrator-General, he has paid first dividends to the creditor; the number of such estates being 3

And of those estates in which no dividends have been declared up to 18th February, 1847, the number is 16

It may be proper to state that the delay in closing or declaring dividends on these 16 estates arose from the Administrator-General not having received the funds from the colony chest until May, 1846; the calling up of the claimants was consequently not issued until after the receipt of the funds.

The amount of money paid out in the administration and division of these estates by the Administrator-General is . . . . . 5868 dols. 75 cts.

Secondly.

Estates emânating from the Honourable the Supreme Court of Civil Justice :—

The total number of such estates which have hitherto devolved on the Administrator-General is 43

These trusts may be divided into two classes.

1st. Guardianships of Minors. In such the trust extends during the minority of the parties.

The total number of such trusts is 25

Of these there has been closed during the administration of the Administrator-General a number of 4

2nd. Administratorships of Insolvent Estates, or estates of which administratorship has been granted *cum testamento annexo*.

These trusts amount to 18

Of these 18 estates the Administrator-General has hitherto been unable to close any of them, in consequence of their not coming into his possession until May, 1846, and some of them not until the latter end of 1846.

The amount of money paid out by the Administrator-General in these trusts emanating from the Court is . . . . . 5226 dols. 7 cts.

Thirdly.

Trusts or administrations originally devolving since the date of the Administrator-General's appointment, consisting of estates of parties dying intestate; estates of deceased parties which are found to be unrepresented; estates of parties absent from the colony, without leaving a legal representative to protect their interests; and estates of applicants for the benefit of the Insolvent Act.

The total of these estates amount to 77

Of these the Administrator-General has finally closed, by realising and collecting the assets, and dividing the same amongst the creditors or parties legally entitled, a number of 14

And of the said estates which are not yet finally closed, he has paid dividends. The amount of such estates is 6

The amount of money so paid out by him is . . . . 16,873 dols. 68 cts.

Summary of the foregoing :—

Total number of estates falling under administration 241

Of which close or divided 125

Total amount of money paid out in such administrations . . 40,275 dols. 20 cts.

General Remarks.

Although the office of Administrator-General has existed for upwards of two years, the estates before referred to have not been for the whole of that period under the administration of the Administrator-General.

In regard to the estates emanating from the Board of Orphans, much time was occupied in taking over these trusts, many of them having great masses of papers and books, which, after examination, were found to be valueless; so that the administration of these estates did not actually commence for a considerable time after the appointment of the Administrator-General.

In regard to the Court of Justice, the trusts have come to the Administrator-General at various times, as they were intimated to him, and as former accounting parties delivered them; a great proportion of these estates were not actually delivered over to the Administrator-General until the month of May, 1846, and the remainder not till November of the same year.

There have also devolved to the Administrator-General, in conjunction with co-sequestrators, certain sequestrations of plantations, in number 9; of which has been closed the number of 4.

(Signed) L. HOUSTON,
Administrator-General, Berbice.

March 19, 1847.

True Copy,
A. F. BAIRD, Acting Assist. Gov. Secretary.

HONDURAS.

No. 25.

HONDURAS.

(No. 22.) No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. E. GREY to Earl GREY.

King's House, Jamaica,
September 7, 1847.

MY LORD,

IN connexion with my Despatch, Honduras, No. 21, August 7, 1847, which accompanied the transmission of the Blue Book of Honduras for 1846, I have now to lay before your Lordship, a general Report on the State of the Settlement, which I have received from Colonel Fancourt, Her Majesty's Superintendent.

No. 13, June 19, 1847, inclosing General Report.

It is a clear and well-prepared paper, and I should be tempted to say a good deal upon it, if I did not feel that in the present anomalous state of the Settlement, it would be premature to bring its affairs into discussion, and to claim specified instructions from Her Majesty's Government for our guidance in the management of them.

This Report, however, and the Blue Book, will satisfy your Lordship that there is at present in British Honduras, both a revenue and every other requisite for the formation of a British colony, if it should at any time be deemed in other respects practicable and expedient to give the Settlement that character.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey. (Signed) CHARLES EDWARD GREY.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 25.

(No. 13.) ENCLOSURE in No. 25.

Government House, Belize,
June 19, 1847.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the British Settlement in Honduras for the year 1846.

In the Annual Report which accompanies it, I have endeavoured to supply such information relative to the form of Government, the administration of justice, and public institutions of British Honduras, as it appeared to me would be most conducive to your Excellency's convenience on assuming, so recently, the Government of Jamaica and its dependencies.

For the Minute headed Administration of Justice, I am indebted to Her Majesty's Attorney-General, Mr. William Frederick Lewis; and for much information as to the climate, the agriculture, and soil of the country, to the experience of Dr. Young, Public Medical Officer of the Settlement, himself a native of Belize, and a resident of twenty-nine years' standing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN FANCOURT.

His Excellency Sir C. E. Grey, G.C.H.
&c. &c &c.

Form of Government.

The Superintendent and the Public Meeting form the Legislature of British Honduras. The Superintendent holds a Commission, from the Governor of Jamaica, to whom he addresses his correspondence, and is more immediately subordinate. He is assisted in the administration of the Government by an Executive Council, appointed by the same authority. He is Ordinary of the Settlement, by virtue of an Act of the local Legislature. There being no Court of Chancery, he has never publicly assumed the office of Chancellor, but should an emergency arise, calling for the exercise of this jurisdiction, it is understood to be vested in him.

The Executive Council, at present, consists of the Chief Justice, the Colonial

Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Officer commanding Her Majesty's land forces, and the Public Treasurer.

The Public Meeting assembles at stated periods, on the first Monday in the months of March, July, and November. The initiatory power rests in fact with the Superintendent; and any member of the Meeting, who is desirous of introducing any measure, must first receive his permission to do so. All measures, thus initiated or introduced, on being confirmed by the Superintendent after passing the Public Meeting, have the force of law within the Settlement, unless disallowed by superior authority.

To become a member of the Public Meeting, the qualification is being a British born subject, three years resident in Honduras, having property to the amount of 300*l.* sterling, after the payment of just debts, and being supported by the suffrages of 25 registered voters.

The voters' qualification consists of being a British born subject, two years resident in the country, possessed of 60*l.* sterling, after the payment of just debts.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Subjoined is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Settlement from the years 1834 to 1846, inclusive.

REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.			
Year.	Sterling.			Year.	Sterling.		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*		£.	*s.*	*d.*
1834	17,507	2	11	1834	16,954	3	7
1835	20,071	12	6	1835	16,566	0	6
1836	21,187	14	11	1836	15,204	12	6
1837	16,601	18	6	1837	16,393	3	8
1838	15,739	7	2	1838	16,592	16	4
1839	13,752	15	4	1839	15,970	15	1
1840	12,246	5	3	1840	12,537	8	5
1841	13,880	3	8	1841	12,695	17	0
1842	12,515	7	10	1842	13,459	8	10
1843	17,229	0	5	1843	14,920	17	6
1844	17,370	1	11	1844	14,162	7	7
1845	22,372	16	0	1845	18,302	3	3
1846	21,667	5	10	1846	19,200	7	1

Statement of revenue of British Honduras, 1844-45-46.

Annexed is a return showing the sources from which such revenue has been derived during the years 1844, 1845, and 1846.

The expenditure for 1846 has exceeded that of 1845, by 898*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* This excess is accounted for, by the increased outlay on account of Public Works, 399*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, and the Police Magistrate's salary for 10 months 483*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* sterling.

During the last two years, however, there has been a considerable outlay on account of Public Works, and it is probable that a similar expenditure will have to be incurred for the years 1847 and 1848, several buildings of imporportance being in progress. The following are either entirely, or nearly, completed. A spacious iron market-house; a powder-magazine, with a house for the officer in charge; St. John's Church, which may be said to have been nearly rebuilt; extensive repairs to Government House, which has been newly furnished; a new verandah surrounding the public hospital, with a tank, and separate edifice for the reception of prisoners, when placed under the care of the Medical Officer; a ferry-house at the Haulover Point, in the river Belize, eight miles distant from the town, and a lighthouse at Manger Key.

The following buildings are in progress. An iron lighthouse at Half-moon Key, contracted for at 2,150*l.* sterling. A police station-house. St. Mary's Church, for which a site has been purchased by the Government; and a foundation is to be prepared for the reception of an iron church, which is daily expected. Towards the erection of this building, 800*l.* sterling has been raised by private sabscription.

On the 31st December, 1846, there was a balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Settlement of 12,082*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* sterling. This will be more than sufficient to cover the cost of the works now in progress, or on the eve of completion.

I consider that a revenue of from 15 to 16000*l.* sterling per annum would be

HONDURAS.

fully adequate to maintain our present establishment, and to preserve the public edifices in repair. It is presumable that this revenue may be maintained without much pressure on the inhabitants, as on striking an average of the yearly revenue from 1834 to 1846 inclusive, I find it to be 17,087*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The average annual expenditure, during the same period, being 15,612*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

In the revenue of the present year there will probably be a decrease, the duty on spirits having been reduced from 4*s.* to 2*s.* a gallon.

Imports and Exports.

On this subject it is necessary I should observe that no accurate estimate of the imports can be collected from the Blue Book now forwarded. According to this record, the aggregate value of imports from Great Britain, the West Indies, the United States, and Foreign States, for the year 1846, is 213,725*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* sterling, it being, at the same time evident, from the amount of duties collected during the same year (page 30 Blue Book) on "Unrated Articles," on which only one per cent. *ad valorem* is payable, that merchandize to the value of 234,000*l.* sterling has paid duty under this specific head alone. On inquiry, I find this to have been occasioned by the system which has hitherto prevailed. It is this. On the arrival of a ship, each merchant hands to the consignee of the vessel a memorandum of the value of the articles which he may have imported, and, from these several documents, the aggregate value of imports is furnished to the Colonial Secretary. I have shown that these returns differ from the value of merchandize on which the duties have actually been levied by the Public Treasurer. This fact, although demonstrating the existing system to be faulty, is honourable to the merchants themselves, shewing, as it does most clearly, that greater caution has been exercised when they were called upon to make a return to the Treasurer's office, to whom they have been in the habit of supplying details to enable him to levy the duties. I shall consult with the Executive Council on this matter, and take such steps thereon as will ensure a more correct account of the imports in future.

The chief articles of import from Great Britain in 1846 have been linen, woollen and cotton goods, hardware, earthenware, wines, spirits, cordials, malt liquor, tea, sugar, hams, cheese, butter, pickles, preserves, preserved meats, cinnamon, soap, shoes, saddlery, gunpowder, shot, wearing apparel, ironwork, lime, bricks, paint, oil, slates, hay, stones, anchors, cables, East India and China goods, perfumery, medicines.

From the West Indies:—Turtle, cocoa-nuts, oil, straw-hats, salt, ginger, pimento, gum, drip-stones.

From the United States:—Flour, pork, beef, bread, salt-fish, coffee, tea, sugar, wine, spirits, cordials, ale, cider, butter, cheese, candles, lard, potatoes, rice, tobacco, cigars, soap, medicines, perfumery, furniture, lumber, shingles, axes, bedding, East India and China goods, tea, gunpowder.

From Foreign States:—Wines, spirits, coffee, cigars, sugar, sweetmeats, mineral water, linen and cotton goods, furniture, musical instruments.

The following is a return of the exports from this Settlement for 1846:—

Mahogany	9,567,570 superficial feet.
Cedar	4,139 feet.
Logwood	4,314½ tons.
Fustic	19¾ ,,
Rosewood	1 ton and 37 pieces.
Cochineal	5,565 seroons.
Indigo	387 ,,
Sarsaparilla	101,031 lbs.
Hides	1,488.
Tortoise-shell	150 barrels.
Cocoa-nuts	529,430.
Specie	276,469 dollars.
Preserved Turtle	49 cases.
Plants	41 boxes..
Gum	1 bag.

STATEMENT of the REVENUE of the Settlement of British Honduras, for the Years 1844. 1845, and 1846.

Sources of Revenue.	1844.			1845.			1846.		
	Quantity.	Rate of Duty.	Amount in Sterling.	Quantity.	Rate of Duty.	Amount in Sterling.	Quantity.	Rate of Duty.	Amount in Sterling.
			£. s. d.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.
Duty on Tonnage	25,652 tons	At 2*s.*	2,565 4 0	30,939 tons	At 2*s.*	3,093 18 0	30,584 tons	At 2*s.*	3,058 8 0
Wines and Spirits	27,934¾ gallons	At 4*s.*	5,558 10 6	43,195¾ gallons	At 4*s.*	8,639 3 0	36,779½ gallons	At 4*s.*	7,353 18 3
Unrated articles	199,393*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*	At 1 per cent.	1,993 18 7	220,327*l.* 10*s.*	At 1 per cent.	2,203 5 6	234,015*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*	At 1 per cent.	2,340 3 1
Sugar	208,139 lbs.	At 9*s* per 100	936 16 1	289,870 lbs.	At 9*s.* and 8*s.*	1,166 13 4	306,340 lbs.	At 8*s.* per 100	1,225 7 0
Coffee	52,570 „	Ditto	236 11 3	59,358 „	Ditto	239 14 9	84,600 „	Ditto	338 8 0
Tea	1,807 „	At 1*s.* per lb.	90 7 0	3,469 „	At 1*s.* per lb.	173 9 0	4,138 „	At 1*s.* per lb.	206 18 0
Molasses	113 gallons	At 7½*d.* per gall.	3 8 3	176 gallons	At 7½*d.* per gall.	5 5 7	356 gallons	At 7½*d.* per gall.	10 14 0
Cigars	670,850	At 8*s.* per m,	268 7 0	660,800	At 8*s.* and 9*s.*	296 19 3	652,250	At 9*s.* per m.	297 10 3
Tobacco	42,136 lbs	At 8*s.* per 100 lbs.	168 11 3	65,508 lbs.	At 8*s.* and 6*s.*	208 9 9	56,125 lbs.	At 6*s.* per 100 lbs.	169 11 0
Lumber	767,506 feet	At 8*s.* per m.	307 0 6	897,520 feet	At 8*s.* per m.	359 0 3	966,285 feet	At 8*s.* per m.	386 10 6
Shingles	852,000	At 2*s.* ,,	85 4 0	1,073,300	At 2*s.* ,,	107 6 6	1,265,500	At 2*s.* ,,	126 11 0
Cattle, imported	2,879	At 4*s.* each	575 16 0	4,324	At 4*s.* each.	864 15 9	2,735	At 4*s.* each	547 0 0
Horses, ditto	27	At 12*s.*	16 4 0	51	At 12*s.* ,,	30 12 0	46	At 12*s.* ,,	27 12 0
Malt Liquors and Cider	. .	At 6*d.* per gall. and 2*s.* per doz.	489 18 3	. .	At 6*d.* per gall. and 1*s.* per doz.	417 18 9	. .	At 6*d.* per gall. and 1*s.* per doz.	834 17 9
Tax on Carriage-wheels	10	At 24*s.*	12 0 0	12	At 24*s.*	14 8 0	10	At 24*s.*	12 0 0
Horses kept in town	29	Ditto	34 16 0	19	Ditto	22 0 0	19	Ditto	22 16 0
Dogs	. .	. .	12 13 6	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Licenses to retail Spirits	19	At 30*l.*	570 0 0	28	At 30*l.*	840 0 0	23	At 30*l.*	690 0 0
Fees of Colonial Secretary's Office	. .	. .	1,339 6 0	. .	. .	1,530 4 0	. .	. .	1,532 3 0
Clerk of Courts ditto	. .	. .	462 2 6	. .	. .	401 11 6	. .	. .	250 18 0
Police-office	. .	. .	119 14 3	. .	. .	171 3 6	. .	. .	299 17 0
Provost Marshal-General ditto	. .	. .	97 7 9	. .	. .	66 15 0	. .	. .	50 19 3
Church	. .	. .	44 16 0	. .	. .	44 4 0	. .	. .	58 16 0
Gaol	. .	. .	23 17 0	. .	. .	12 4 0	. .	. .	15 4 6
Hospital	. .	. .	306 18 0	. .	. .	285 0 0	. .	. .	272 3 0
Harbour-master	. .	. .	168 14 0	. .	. .	176 17 0	. .	. .	186 6 0
Foreign small craft	380	At 4*s.*	76 0 0	361	At 4*s.*	72 4 0	256	At 4*s.*	51 4 0
Market	. .	. .	318 18 6	. .	. .	320 5 4	. .	. .	338 17 0
Clerk of Council	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	0 16 0	. .	. .	. .
Post-office	. .	. .	68 14 3	. .	. .	321 17 6	. .	. .	. .
Storage of Gunpowder	. .	At 6*s.* per brl.	89 8 0	. .	At 6*s.* per brl.	228 3 0	. .	At 6*s.* per brl.	353 9 6
Sales of Public Property	. .	. .	8 0 3	. .	. .	31 16 3	. .	. .	48 14 0
Fines and Confiscations	. .	. .	107 17 6	. .	. .	116 2 0	. .	. .	363 6 9
Bonded Store Rent	. .	. .	31 17 9	. .	. .	67 1 6	. .	. .	64 11 0
Rent of Council Chamber	. .	. .	132 12 0	. .	. .	132 12 0	. .	. .	132 12 0
Church pews	. .	. .	48 12 0	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .	. .
Total	. .	. . £	17,370 1 11	. .	. . £	22,372 16 0	. .	. . £	21,667 5 10

HONDURAS.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

British Honduras is in the diocese of Jamaica. The only Church establishments are in the town of Belize, which is now divided into two districts, the Northern and the Southern. The clergymen are known as the Chaplain of the Settlement, who officiates at St. John's church, in the Southern district, and the Settlement Curate, who is attached to the Northern district St. Mary's.

The chaplain of St. John's, is also chaplain of the gaol. He enjoys a salary of 600*l.* sterling a-year, paid out of the public revenue, and has a parsonage-house, built at the public expense, for the repair of which occasional grants have been obtained from the Public Meeting. The pew-rents and church dues of whatever nature or description, with the exception of the Sacramental collections, which, under the direction of the chaplain, are applied to the relief of the poor, are paid into the Public Treasury, from which source are defrayed all expenses elsewhere provided for by church rates; a mode of collection not prevailing in this settlement.

A clerk, at 90*l.* sterling; an organist, at 90*l.* sterling; and a sexton, at 36*l.* sterling, a-year, are attached to St. John's church; and their salaries are paid out of the public revenue. There are two churchwardens nominated annually for St. John's church, one by the Chaplain of the Settlement, the other by the Public Meeting.

The Rev. Mr. Newport, the present Chaplain of the Settlement, holds a commission from the Bishop of Jamaica, as Rural Dean and Bishop's Commissary in Honduras.

That portion of the town of Belize, which is situated on the north side of the river, has been only recently constituted a separate cure; and the church, and district are to be called St. Mary's. The Rev. Joseph Gegg, has been recently appointed Settlement Curate of St. Mary's. He has a stipend of 300*l.* sterling per annum, from the public revenue, and 200*l.* sterling a-year, in addition, as officating Military Chaplain.

A house has been licensed in St. Mary's district, where Divine Service will be performed, until the new church can be completed; but no provision has yet been made for a clerk and sexton. It is, however my intention, to take an early opportunity of consulting the Public Meeting on the subject, and I shall endeavour to procure a clerk who will be able to take charge of the school which it is proposed to establish, and the want of which is severely felt on the north side by members of the Established Church, who are now, from the want of schools in connexion with the Church, compelled to send their children to those of the various religious persuasions.

The Wesleyans have a chapel in Belize, and one in Stan Creek, a Carib settlement, with a population of 1400; about 40 miles to the southward of Belize. One of their ministers usually resides there.

The Baptists have two chapels in Belize.

Administration of Justice.

There are five Courts in this Settlement to which the administration of justice, criminal and civil, is committed:—The Court of Ordinary; the Supreme Court; the Grand Court; the Summary Court, and the Police Court.

The Court of Ordinary was, for many years, a Court in which the magistrates of the Settlement, who presided, exercised an equitable jurisdiction as well as that more properly appertaining to it.

At a meeting of the magistrates and inhabitants, held in December, 1793, it was resolved, That the right of granting Letters of Administration, Testamentary and Trust, by the magistrates of Honduras, by virtue of the ancient usage and custom of the Settlement, as confirmed by His Majesty, and set forth in Col. Hunter's Proclamation, is an inherent right of the community of Honduras; and agreeably to such ancient usage and custom is, and ought to be solely exercised by the magistrates, by them duly elected. This state of things continued until 1846. In March of that year, the office of magistrate of the Settlement was abolished by an Act of the local Legislature, and by the same Act it was provided, That for the future, Her Majesty's Superintendent should exercise and possess all the powers and authority, and perform all the functions and duties, which have hitherto appertained to the Judges of the Court of

Ordinary. If any occasion should arise for an equitable jurisdiction, it is presumed that the parties interested would apply to the Superintendent. As Ordinary, the Superintendent holds his Court as occasion requires, and takes cognizance of all matters respecting the validity of wills, the probate of wills, and grants of Letters of Administration. The cases which have come before this Court have been hitherto of the simplest form, relating to grants of Letters of Administration. The mode of proceeding to obtain this is, to file a petition accompanied with an affidavit stating the death of the intestate, the supposed value of his property, and the grounds upon which the petitioner seeks to obtain the Letters of Administration. Three weeks public notice is then given, calling upon all persons to show cause why Letters of Administration should not be granted to the petitioner. At the end of the three weeks, if no cause is shown, the petitioner having first made oath and given bond for the due administration of the estate, receives the Letters of Administration. A warrant of appraisement is also issued to two persons, to return upon oath to the Clerk of Courts, an inventory and appraisement of the goods, and chattels, &c. of the deceased, within three months, or such other time as they may be required to do so. If any one is desirous of opposing the petition he is at liberty to appear and do so within the three weeks, but no further pleadings have hitherto been required under such circumstances.

The Supreme Court was established by the Acts of the Imperial Parliament, 57 Geo. III. cap. 53, and 59 Geo. III. cap. 44, for the trials of murders, manslaughters, rapes, robberies, and burglaries. This Court, at present, sits under the authority of letters patent from the Crown, bearing date 1st day of March, 1845, which were transmitted to this Settlement, directed to Her Majesty's Superintendent, the Chief Justice, the officer commanding the land forces, and six or seven more discreet persons. Of this number, three constitute a Court, of whom, the Superintendent or Chief Justice is required to be one. The Court is convened as occasion requires, by a notice, issued eight days at least before the meeting of the Court, and signed by such three Commissioners; and at the same time the Superintendent or Chief Justice issues a warrant to the Provost Marshal General to summon a jury. That officer, seven days at least before the Court, summons a grand jury of 24 of the most influential and intelligent inhabitants of Belize, and serves a notice to attend upon the 60 petit jurors whose term of service it then is. When the Court has assembled, and the grand jury been charged, the bills, which are prepared by the Clerk of Court, and settled and endorsed by the Attorney-General, are sent to the grand jury by an officer, who is sworn as keeper of the grand jury. On a bill being found, the proceedings before the Court are conducted on behalf of the Crown by the Attorney-General according to the principles and practice which prevail in the Criminal Courts in England. The prisoner is generally defended by some gentleman of the town, there being at present *no professional man in the Settlement who can undertake that duty*, the Clerk of the Court being of course unable to do so. Those prisoners that are acquitted are immediately discharged without the payment of any fee.

Appendix, No. 1.

Appendix, No. 4.

Appendix, No. 3.

Appendix, No, 2.

The Grand Court appears to have been established at a meeting of the magistrates and inhabitants, in November, 1795, there having previously been quarterly Courts. The magistrates presided, and they continued to do so until the year 1843; in that year the Chief Justice took his seat as Presiding Judge and the magistrates acted as Assistant Judges. In the year 1846, by the Acts of the local Legislature abolishing the office of magistrate, it was provided, that the Commissioners of the Supreme Court named in Her Majesty's letters patent after the officer commanding the land forces, should be Assistant Judges of the Grand Court. This arrangement was subsequently found inconvenient, and, in March, 1847, an Act was passed, by the Public Meeting, empowering Her Majesty's Superintendent to appoint two or more persons to be Assistant Judges of the Grand Court. Any two of the Assistant Judges so appointed, with the Chief Justice, or, in the absence of the Chief Justice, any three of the Assistant Judges, now constitute a Court. The Court exercises both a criminal and civil jurisdiction; it sits three times a-year. The first term commences on the last Monday in February; the second, on the last Monday in June; and the third, on the last Monday in October, and each ends on the Saturday following. The criminal cases are first disposed of, and the Court then proceeds to hear the causes that are listed in the Clerk of the Court's office.

HONDURAS.

As a criminal Court it takes cognizance of all offences not included in the Commission constituting the Supreme Court, with the exception of such minor offences as are disposed of in the Police Court. The cases are brought before the Court without the intervention of a grand jury. The bills of indictment are prepared by the Clerk of the Court, the presentment being on the oaths of the witnesses for the prosecution. Upon these the prisoners are respectively arraigned; and, upon the plea of "Not Guilty," a petit jury is sworn, and charged with the prisoner, and the case proceeds in the usual manner. The power of the Court with respect to punishment is limited by an Act of the local Legislature of March, 1845, to imprisonment in the gaol of Belize, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding four years, or to any fine not exceeding 300*l.* sterling.

With respect to its civil jurisdiction, the Grand Court deals with all cases of debt above 6*l.* sterling, actions for damage, trespass, &c. Titles to land are tried by writs of replevin. The first step towards bringing an action is to render an account, six weeks before the Court meets, to the defendant. This account, in cases of debt, would be the amount claimed—in trespass, would be the damages laid, in the shape of an account. Then, three weeks before the Court, a summons is served upon the defendant, signed by one of the Judges, and directed to the Provost Marshal, requiring him to summon the defendant to appear and show cause why judgment should not pass in favour of the plaintiff for the amount which he states is justly due to him from the defendant. Upon this summons alone the respective parties appear, either in person, or by their representatives, and prove their case as best they can. The plaintiff is, in all cases, a competent witness. In some cases it has been the practice for juries to find a verdict for the plaintiff "*on a footing with other creditors.*" This happens when the defendant declares himself insolvent; and, not wishing to give a preference to any one creditor, requests that the verdict may be so returned. At other times, the Court, when a state of insolvency is disclosed during the trial, direct the jury to find in this way. In all these cases the Provost Marshal is constituted a sort of official assignee. He is in possession of the defendant's property, and having realized the assets distributes them among all the creditors. The juries are also in the habit of returning verdicts "*with costs;*" *attachment* against goods and in some cases, against money, are tried in this Court. This mode of proceeding has been adopted in the following instances: If a trespasser cuts down trees on a mahogany works, and the trees are likely to be conveyed out of the plaintiff's reach, he seizes the wood under an attachment. Again, when goods in the possession of a debtor are likely to be frittered or squandered away, the creditor may attach them. Again, when any property or goods have been sold, and a specific sum of money (the value of such property or goods), belonging to the purchaser is in the hands of a third party, and it is necessary to prevent the money from getting into the hands of the purchaser, the vendor may attach it. In all these cases, the plaintiff is required to give a bond and enter into security for double the value of the property attached, to pursue and establish his claim at the next Court. In the meantime, the Provost Marshal holds the goods subject to the verdict.

Writs of execution from this Court issue immediately after the Court in which judgment has been obtained, returnable the first day of the next Grand Court. But judgments in which the defendants think themselves aggrieved, can be arrested at the sitting of the Court during which the action has been tried, upon production of a petition for rehearing, supported by an affidavit of better evidence produceable by the next Grand Court, the particular proof and witnesses being specified. Upon the return of the writ, the execution debtor is allowed to show cause why the property seized should not be sold. If he fails, the writ of venditioni issue, returnable the next Grand Court. If the Provost Marshal returns "Nulla bona," a fresh writ of execution must be taken out, and the proceedings commenced *de novo* from this point. Or, in cases where the debt does not exceed 60*l.* sterling, the Court may call the parties interested in such return before them, and after inquiry into the circumstances of the case, may assess such weekly or monthly payment to be made by the debtor, from the proceeds of his labour, towards the liquidation of the debt and costs as may appear equitable; or the debtor may enter into his creditor's service at certain stipulated wages, but if he refuses all compromise, he must be committed, and his gaol expenses added to the debt. If the Provost Marshal returns part pay-

ment, no fresh execution is necessary, but a second venditioni may be issued. If upon the venditioni a sale of property has taken place, by which the sum due to the plaintiff is realized, the Provost Marshal must pay to the defendant at the Court the writ of venditioni is returnable, *if not sooner*, whatever surplus may remain in his hands after paying the plaintiff, and deducting the legal costs. It is an established custom of this Settlement that no priority of judgment is allowed.

Appendix, No. 5.

In matters of practice the Judges of the Grand Court are prohibited by an Act of the local Legislature of March 1845, from issuing any writ, order, summons, warrant, or process whatever, except those mentioned in the schedule to the Act; and also from assuming to themselves any authority, or powers by reason of such authority, or powers being analogous to those exercised by the Court of Queen's Bench in England; but in all matters they are to confine themselves to the exercise of such authority and powers as may to a majority of the Judges, during sittings, appear consonant to the practice, custom, and usage of the settlement, or as may be declared by the local Legislature to be the law of the Settlement. This provision is declared not to be intended to interfere with their power of issuing writs, &c., for the purpose of enforcing their decisions, or of ordering such fines, or inflicting such imprisonment on any person committing a contempt of Court in the presence of the Court, as may be necessary; provided such fine does not exceed 30*l.* sterling, or such imprisonment does not exceed 30 days.

The Court can also inflict a fine of 10 dollars on any person who shall not appear and answer to his name when the list of jurors is called, or who shall not appear when called to sit as a juror in the formation of a new jury, provided he has not been fined previously on the same day for non-attendance. Special jurors can be fined 30 dollars.

The Summary Court appears to have existed in the early times of the Settlement; but its constitution is now derived from the Act of the local Legislature of March, 1846, for the abolition of the office of magistrate. By the 28th section of that Act authority is given to Her Majesty's Superintendent to appoint three or more persons to be Judges of the Summary Court, which persons so appointed are to possess and exercise all the powers and authority which have hitherto appertained to the judges of that Court. Three gentlemen have since been appointed in accordance with this provision. The jurisdiction of the Summary Court, *as a criminal Court*, extends only to assaults, and some other offences, of a minor degree, which are now seldom brought before it, being more readily disposed of in the Police Court. In those cases which are brought before it, this Court is limited in its sentences to three month's imprisonment, with or without hard labour, or a fine of 30*l.* sterling.

As a civil Court, it takes cognizance of debt of the amount of 6*l.* sterling and under. Besides these cases, bonds given by public officers for the proper performance of their duty are sueable in this Court, as also are other cases in which the public is interested. In those cases in which the amount sought to be recovered is 6*l.* or under, the jury consists of *three;* but in those cases in which the public is interested, and in which the amount is above 6*l.*, the jury consists of *twelve*. Parties sueing in this Court are required to render an account and serve a summons upon the defendant before 12 o'clock A.M. on the Saturday preceding the Court, which sits on the first Monday in every month. When judgment is obtained, *the mode of proceeding* in execution is similar, mutatis mutandis, to that which prevails in the Grand Court. *Its practice also*, with reference to issuing of writs, &c., and inflicting fines and imprisonment, is defined in the same Act of the local Legislature as that in the Grand Court, and differs only in the amount of fine, which must not exceed 12*l.* sterling, and the term of imprisonment, which must not exceed 10 days. The power to inflict fines on absent jurors is the same as that given to the Grand Court. The duty is also imposed on this Court to correct and settle the jury-list for the current year, which is produced before it by the Provost Marshal on the first Monday in January.

The Police Court was established by the Act of the local Legislature of March, 1846, to which reference has already been made. By that Act, Her Majesty's Superintendent is empowered to appoint a fit person to be justice of the peace, with a salary of 600*l.* sterling a-year. This officer is expected to

HONDURAS.

attend at the Police Court every day (except Sunday and others that are specified); and to make report in writing every quarter to the Colonial Secretary. Besides the ordinary duty of taking depositions against parties charged with offence, and committing such parties for trial, there are others specified in the Act, incumbent upon him. In the criminal cases he issues his warrant for the apprehension of the accused; in the civil cases which he is authorized to dispose of summarily, he summons the party charged, and upon proof of the service of the summons can proceed *ex parte*.

Among the powers and duties mentioned in the Act are the following:— Upon information on oath that anything stolen is secreted in a certain place he can issue his search warrant, the subsequent proceedings on which are also stated. Upon the certificate of the public medical officer that any place is in a filthy and unwholesome state, he can summon the occupiers, and require them to abate the nuisance in 48 hours, and upon non-compliance he can issue an order to any constable to have this done at the expense of the occupiers, the amount to be levied by distress and sale of their goods. All contracts in writing, entered into by servants in husbandry, artificers, mahogany cutters, sailors, labourers and others, must be signed in his presence, and attested by him. (This duty may be done by his clerk according to the provisions of a later Act.) All disputes between these parties (not being domestic servants) and their masters are settled by him. On all frivolous charges he is empowered to award any sum not exceeding 6*l.* sterling, to be paid by the informer to the party complained of. He can also fine persons lodging informations, and subsequently compounding them, in any sum not exceeding 12*l.* sterling. Offences punishable summarily before him must be heard within six calendar months after the commission of them. He also decides summarily all cases of smuggling; but in these an appeal lies to the Grand Court. All sums of money ordered by him to be paid may on non-payment be levied by distress and sale of goods of the party liable to pay, who may be detained until the return of the warrant of distress; but if no sufficient levy can be made, the party may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding one calendar month, the imprisonment to cease on payment of the money due. He is required to keep an account of all fees (which are stated in a Schedule to the Act), and all penalties received at his office, and once a month to pay the amount to the Public Treasurer. He is also required once a fortnight to visit and inspect the gaol, and to report in writing to the Colonial Secretary the state and condition of the gaol and its inmates. When persons are charged before him with the commission of any crime, in all cases in which from the depositions sufficient grounds appear for committing the accused for trial before the Supreme Court, he is required to send a copy of the commitment (which must be strictly in the form prescribed by the law of England) without loss of time to Her Majesty's Superintendent, that he may take the necessary step for summoning the Commissioners to appoint time and place for holding the Court. He is also required to furnish to the clerk of the Court within 48 hours of the committal a copy of the committal and of the depositions. In those cases in which the prisoner is committed for trial at the Grand Court, he must furnish a copy of the warrant and of the depositions to the clerk of the Court within seven days after the committal, or sooner if necessary. In cases sent before the Summary Court (which is seldom, if ever, done now), he should send a copy of the warrant and of the depositions to the clerk of the Court within five days after the committal, or sooner if necessary.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

The office of Chief Justice was created by an Act of the local Legislature in July, 1842. The holder of this office receives his Commission from the Governor of Jamaica. He is a Commissioner of the Supreme Court, as stated in the context. He sits in, and presides over, the Grand Court of the Settlement, associated with two or more Assistant Judges, who receive no remuneration. The present Chief Justice is also a member of the Executive Council. An annual sum of 1000*l.* sterling is voted by the Public Meeting as his salary.

No. 2.

The office of Attorney-General was created by an Act of the local Legislature in March, 1847. By that Act Her Majesty's Superintendent is empowered to appoint, by Commission under the seal of the Settlement, a member of the English bar to be Her Majesty's Attorney-General for the Settlement. The duty of this officer is to act, on behalf of the Crown, in the several Courts of the Settlement, in the prosecution of all crimes and misdemeanours committed, or charged to have been committed, within the said Settlement, or in any other matter concerning the business of the Crown or public. The present Attorney-General is also a member of the Executive Council. A salary of 300*l.* sterling per annum is attached to the office.

No. 3.

The office of Clerk of the Courts has existed from early times in this Settlement. His duties have been various at various times, but may now be shortly stated as follows:—

In the Court of Ordinary he files and records petitions, &c. He also draws up and records letters testamentary, and letters of administration, bonds, dedimuses, &c., and attends the Court at its sittings.

In the Supreme Court he issues the precepts for the grand jury, and the venire for the petit jury to the Provost Marshal. He prepares the indictments, subpœnas, warrants, &c. When the Court meets he attends in Court, calls the jury, arraigns the prisoner, swears the witnesses, and receives the verdict. After the business of the Court is over, he records the proceedings, which record is made up in conformity with the English precedents.

In the Grand Court he prepares the indictments, issues the venire, and all summonses, subpœnas, writs, and other processes of the Court on the civil as well as on the criminal side. He draws up and enters all orders of the Court, and records judgments, satisfactions, assignments of judgments, &c. He attends the Court during its sittings, and issues process for the recovery of fines. He makes out and attests copies of records of the Court for parties requiring them.

In the Summary Court his duties are similar to those in the Grand Court, except that he does not issue a venire, that not being made use of in this Court. Whenever either of the parties to a suit is desirous of having a special jury, he must give three day's notice previous to the assembling of the Grand Court to the Clerk of the Courts, who is required to take security from him for the payment of five dollars per day to such special jury who may be chosen, so long as the jury may be impannelled. When the cause is called on in Court, it is the duty of the Clerk of the Court to read over the whole of the jury list, and the plaintiff and defendant alternately approve or disapprove, as the names are called, until a jury of 12 is struck.

He is also Keeper of Records, and as such, records all deeds, &c. brought to his office, and marks and attests copies thereof. He draws up and records bonds of public officers, oaths of the same, and of lumber measurers. He is Keeper of the Public Seal, Registrar of Dissenters' Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and places of worship; and also of surveyors' and lumber measurers' certificates. He makes out bonds, and issues licences of vendors of spirits.

He is also Clerk of the Public Meetings, and, as such, records the laws and proceedings of the meeting, and attends it during session; and when the business is closed, he furnishes a copy thereof to Her Majesty's Superintendent. The Public Meeting vote an annual sum of 600*l.* sterling, as a salary to this officer.

No. 4.

The office of Provost Marshal General has also existed for a long time in the Settlement. His duties are,—To execute the process of the Supreme, Grand, and Summary Courts; to warn jurors; to serve subpœnas on witnesses in criminal cases, and in civil cases also when required; to collect fines; to execute writs; to warn jurors for Coroners inquests. He also attends the Coroner's Court, as well as the Supreme, Grand, and Summary Courts. He executes the sentences of the Supreme Court. When juries are locked up, they are placed under his charge. The Public Meeting vote an annual sum of 600*l.* sterling, as a salary to this officer.

With reference to juries, the duties of this officer have been, by a recent Act of the local Legislature, more particularly defined. By that Act, which was passed in March, 1847, he is required to publish a list of persons qualified, according to the Act, to serve on juries, signed by him, with a notice appended, stating when and where any objections to the said list will be heard. A copy of this list he sends to each Judge of the Summary Court. At the first session of this Court, after the 15th of December in each year, he is required to produce this list, when it is settled by the Judges. Out of the list so settled, he is required, once in every four months, to summon 60 men, to serve on all juries during the ensuing four months; and, besides this general summons, he must give seven days' notice to each juror previously to the Court at which he is to serve.

No. 5.

The words, "*if not sooner,*" appear in the original Order of Court, which is of February Quarterly Court, 1791; but the practice has always been for sales under writs of venditioni to take place in open Court; and if the general business of the Court has been concluded before the Saturday, it has always been adjourned to that day, for this special purpose.

HONDURAS.

Police.

The Act 10th Vict. cap. 1, for establishing a more efficient system of police, and more effectual regulations for the extinguishment of fire, in and about the town of Belize, passed the local Legislature in November, 1846.

The police force consists of

1 Sergeant,
1 Corporal,
10 Privates,

and the entire body is under the immediate direction and control of the police magistrate, who is authorized, subject to the approval of the Superintendent and Council, to frame such orders and regulations as he shall deem expedient for the general government of the force, and for rendering it efficient in the discharge of its duties.

There are two police stations in the town. That on the north side is in charge of a corporal and five men; that on the south, of a sergeant and five men. Two fire-engines are attached to each station, and one policeman and 12 firemen are specially attached to each engine. The firemen are required to exercise the engines once in every three months, and receive 8*s*. sterling each on all such occasions. They are also under the control of the police magistrate, when their services are required for the purposes of exercise or extinguishing fire.

The police force are paid by the Public Treasurer monthly, at the following rates:—

	£.		
Sergeant,	120	sterling	per annum.
Corporal,	80	„	„
Privates,	50	„	„

Medical attendance, bed and bedding, one dress uniform coat every two years, and two white uniform jackets and a cap annually, are supplied to each member of the police force.

Prisons.

The common gaol of this Settlement is situated in the town of Belize, on the south side of the river Belize. The building has been found to be quite inadequate to the purposes for which it was intended. It is so limited in extent, and so devoid of arrangement in its interior, that it is almost impossible to effect any of those improvements which have been so generally attempted with reference to the mangement of gaols. The whole interior consists of three rooms set apart for the gaoler, three debtors' rooms, and fourteen sleeping cells, in which tried and untried prisoners, and lunatics, are confined. It is not, therefore, surprising that much laxity has hitherto prevailed, both in its management and the discipline enforced within it. A Board of Superintendence has recently been appointed by me, consisting of the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, and the Public Treasurer. To this Board is committed the entire supervision of the gaol concerns. It meets once a month, for the purpose of receiving the reports of the several officers connected with the gaol. These are the local Inspector, whose duty it is to make a strict inquiry as to the provisions supplied for the use of the prisoners, and to hear, and decide upon, all complaints made by subordinate officers or prisoners. The Chaplain, who attends on Sunday, and once or twice during the week, for the purpose of prayer and instruction. The Public Medical Officer, whose duty it is to visit the gaol twice every week, and attend to the sanitary condition of the inmates; and the Gaoler, to whom is entrusted the entire government and discipline of the prisoners, and the care of the building. When the meeting is closed, the members of the Board usually visit the gaol, and make a minute inspection of the building and the work done within the gaol, and inquire into the conduct and state of health of the prisoners and subordinate officers. Each member, also, visits the institution at other times, as his leisure gives him opportunity.

Although the very limited size of the prison precludes the possibility of any system of classification, or the rigid enforcement of discipline; still much improvement has been effected both in the cleanliness of the building itself, and also in the moral and general conduct of the prisoners, through the zeal and

activity of the acting Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Gegg, and the new gaoler, Mr. Zealley.

The only alteration recently made in the interior of the building, is the partitioning off of a portion of the lower hall, and two cells, for the purpose of separating the untried prisoners from the convicts. These two cells and one side of the yard will, for the future, be appropriated exclusively to untried prisoners.

Schools.

The school which had been carried on for many years as a free school, was in the years 1845 and 1846 made the subject of certain enactments of the local Legislature.

It is now known as the Honduras Grammar School, and is conducted by a head master, aided by an assistant master, who is also clerk at St. John's church. A salary of 300*l.* sterling is attached to the office of head master, and of 180*l.* sterling to the combined offices of assistant master and clerk. The number of pupils on the rolls of the school is about 175, but, from a variety of causes, the attendance rarely exceeds 75. They are for the most part children of the lower classes, and the parents are not required to make any payments, liberal supplies of books, &c., being obtainable on application to the Government. The school is divided into six classes, the last of which is an infant class. The school hours are from 9 o'clock to 2 o'clock, and a selection of prayers from the Church Liturgy is read both at the opening and closing of the school. The subjects of instruction are at present confined to reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar. Dr. Bell's system has been hitherto followed.

The admission of pupils and all matters connected with the general requirements of the school are committed to a Board of Management, which at present consists of the acting Chaplain of the Settlement, the Attorney-General, and one of the churchwardens.

The Superintendent and Council are the Governors of the school.

The Lord Bishop of Jamaica is the Visitor.

The half-yearly examinations, in the absence of the Visitor, are made by the Governors, when prizes are distributed; a sum of 20*l.* sterling being annually voted for this purpose.

There is also a girls' school under the same control and management. The schoolmistress receives 90*l.* sterling per annum, and resides in the house provided for the school. She has an assistant, who receives a yearly salary of 36*l.* sterling.

The Wesleyans have a school in Belize, and one in Stan Creek.

The Baptists have two schools in Belize.

Hospitals.

The Public Hospital was established in 1820 by a resolution of the local Legislature, "for the reception of sick seamen and others," and is attended by the Public Medical Officer. The Superintendent and Council are the Governors of the hospital, and the Medical Officer is nominated annually by Her Majesty's Superintendent. The salary attached to the office is 180*l.* sterling per annum; and a sum of 60*l.* sterling, in addition, has been placed at the disposal of the Superintendent and Council for the purchase of medicines for the year 1847, which were formerly supplied at the expense of the Public Medical Officer.

The disbursements on account of the institution for the year 1846, exclusive of the salary of the Public Medical Officer, were 376*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* sterling. The receipts towards defraying these expenses, 272*l.* 3*s.* sterling, derived from a tax of 4*s.* sterling levied on each man-cook and apprentice serving in vessels entering from seaward; of 1*l.* 4*s.* sterling upon all coasters carrying cargo or freight beyond the limits of this Settlement; and 1*s.* sterling per month per man for the average crew of all mahogany droggers.

The benefits of the institution are now extended to persons of slender means of the working classes, and to all who may suffer from serious accidents. These are relieved on application to the Colonial Secretary, who has a discretionary power, vested in him by the Governors, to grant orders of admission to the hospital. The males and females have distinct wards, and 25 patients can be accommodated in separate beds.

The Police Force are also attended by the Public Medical Officer: when suffering from slight indisposition, at the station-house; when more serious cases occur, in the hospital. Under circumstances of emergency, a discretionary

HONDURAS.

power is exercised by the Medical Officer of admitting patients on his own authority, a report of the circumstances being furnished to the Colonial Secretary.

The Public Medical Officer has further duties imposed upon him. He is required, by legislative enactment, to visit the gaol twice a week, and, at stated intervals, to make a report thereon as to the state of the prisoners to the Board of Superintendence. Should a prisoner be seriously ill, he is removed to a building in the hospital premises, detached from the main building, the accommodation in the gaol being inadequate. It is also his duty to obey the summons of the Coroner on every occasion when his services may be required to make a *post-mortem* examination.

In the event of sickness on board any vessel newly arrived, it becomes his duty to visit such vessel, and to recommend the enforcement of quarantine when convinced of its necessity.

He is empowered, by legislative enactment, to lodge a complaint before the Justice of the Peace against the occupier of any house or premises which may be in a filthy and unwholesome condition, so that the health of the inmates and of the public are affected; and such occupier is bound to abate the nuisance to the satisfaction of the Public Medical Officer within forty-eight hours from the time of receiving notice of the complaint.

I am informed by Dr. Young, the Public Medical Officer, that it has not been usual to dispense medicines to the inmates of the poor-house, or to the indigent who receive out-door relief, but that, in cases of serious illness, they have always been admitted into hospital. This privilege still remains to them; and medicine is now dispensed to them gratis, should they require it, on application to the surgeon of a Dispensary which has been established within the last three months.

The Settlement Curate of the northern district visits the hospital three times a week, and whenever his presence may be desired by a patient. The ministers of the different religious persuasions have also access to the hospital should their assistance be specially required.

The ventilation of the rooms, the extreme cleanliness, perfect order and quietude, which prevail in the hospital, have attracted the attention of all those whose duty it has been to visit the establishment, and are highly creditable to Dr. Young.

TABLE of DISEASES treated in Public Hospital of Belize, for the Years 1844, 1845, and 1846.

	1844		1845		1846		Remarks.
	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	
Fevers.							
Intermittent	75	..	62	..	102	..	Nearly $\frac{1}{20}$ths of the Fever cases have occurred among Europeans.
Remittent	42	5	33	5	64	17	
Common Continued	10	..	6	..	5	..	
Yellow	5	2	2	2	12	10	
Stomach and Bowels.							
Dyspepsia	10	..	18	..	23	..	
Constipation	9	..	11	3	10	..	
Diarrhœa	1	..	5	..	2	..	
Acute Dysentery	..	..	1	1	2	1	
Chronic Dysentery	..	..	4	1	6	1	
Cholic	1	..	2	..	..	..	
Cholera	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Inflammation	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Diseases of Lungs	11	3	5	3	10	3	
,, Liver	3	..	..	..	2	..	
Dropsies	2	1	5	2	6	4	
Diseases of Brain	5	2	7	..	3	1	
Ophthalmia	3	..	2	..	2	..	
Abscesses and Ulcers	31	1	13	..	11	..	
Venereal Affections	3	..	6	..	14	1	
Rheumatic Affections	14	..	12	..	13	..	
Other Diseases	18	5	13	2	21	8	
Wounds and Accidents	22	..	31	1	27	4	
Amputations	..	..	1	..	2	..	
Total	265	19	241	20	337	50	

Climate.

The country immediately adjacent to the town of Belize is low and swampy, but, being open to the sea, and the easterly or sea breezes prevailing during nine months in the year, the climate during those nine months is very healthy.

From the beginning of March to the end of May, which is termed the dry season, little or no rain falls, and the thermometer ranges from 75° to 86° of Fahrenheit. This may be considered the most healthy season of the year. In June, July, August, and September, heavy and frequent rains fall. These are the most unhealthy months of the year, disease being engendered by the marsh miasmata arising from the decomposition of the animal and vegetable matter in the adjacent low lands and swamps, from which it is swept into the town by occasional land winds which blow during the night. In the latter part of October, and the months of November and December, strong northerly and north-westerly winds set in, frequently occasioning, if accompanied by rain, a fall of the thermometer, during the night, to 60° of Fahrenheit, from a temperature of about 80° on the previous day.

The endemic diseases, prevalent during the most unhealthy period of the year, are bilious, remittent, and intermittent fevers. Rheumatic affections are also of frequent occurrence. The blacks, both native and African, suffer from pulmonary affections during the colder months, when the northerly winds prevail. Attacks of bilious remittent in its most exacerbated form, and with all the concomitants of yellow fever, are a frequent consequence of intemperance on the part of European seamen. On the other hand, habits of sobriety and regularity of life as frequently ensure years of immunity from disease. On the whole, the climate is decidedly more healthy than most parts of the West Indies. As you ascend the different rivers, the banks and the surrounding country rise in height until the river-sources, situated from 150 to 200 miles inland, are approached. Here the climate becomes more temperate and congenial to European constitutions.

Agriculture.

Of agriculture, in British Honduras, little that is satisfactory can be said. The practical husbandry is of the most primitive description. Agricultural implements are limited to the axe, macheat, and hoe, the two first mentioned are employed in felling trees and lopping branches, the last, in clearing the soil, when overgrown from weeds. The plough is never used, neither is manure applied for improving, or preserving, the fertility of the soil. The system invariably pursued when the land becomes impoverished, is to abandon it, and to make a fresh forest clearance. Ever since the establishment of the Settlement, the energies of the inhabitants have been so exclusively devoted to cutting mahogany and logwood, for the supply of the home market, and the introduction of British manufactured goods, for the consumption of the Central American Republics; that the cultivation of the soil has been almost entirely neglected, a few of the labouring classes alone having their small plantations in which they raise plantains, yams, and Indian corn, the two first, in quantity barely sufficient for their own maintenance, the last mentioned, in still smaller proportion. Although the sugar cane grows luxuriantly, and arrives at the greatest perfection, no attempt has yet been made to devote either capital or industry to the manufacture of sugar. Even for the consumption of the inhabitants, the supply of this necessary article is almost exclusively derived from the town of Bacalar, in Yucatan.

Two or three individuals have recently applied themselves to the manufacture of rum from the sugar cane. This experiment has been in progress during the last three years, and it is expected that 5000 gallons of rum will be this year produced. No excise duty has been hitherto imposed on the distillation of rum, from an anxiety not to discourage the attempt.

In an agricultural point of view, it may truly be said, there are few countries which possess greater advantages than British Honduras, and this remark applies to the whole line of coast from the river Hondo to the river Sarstoon. Were capital applied to the cultivation of the soil, it would, I am satisfied, yield an abundant harvest, but this will, probably, never be attempted by the existing body of merchants and mahogany cutters. It is, however, seriously to be desired by all those who have really at heart the development of the resources of this Settlement, and the moral condition of its inhabitants.

HONDURAS.

Soil.

On the sides of all the rivers intersecting British Honduras there are belts of land, varying in breadth from a hundred yards to three-quarters of a mile, covered with forest trees of a growth indicating the fertility of the soil from which they spring. This consists of a stiff loam of great depth, evidently the product of deposits made by the rivers in their almost annual overflowings. In addition to these tracts of land, so well culculated for the cultivation of the sugar-cane and every description of tropical produce, there are far more extensive tracts in what are called the cahoon-ridges, where the soil consists of decayed vegetable matter of the depth of from two to three feet, the accumulation of ages. In fertility, this ground cannot be surpassed; and, when we take into consideration the facility afforded by the various rivers, and their tributary streams, for the transport of every description of produce to the coast, it may confidently be anticipated that, should capital and labour be hereafter judiciously applied to the cultivation of the sugar-cane and coffee-tree, the value of this portion of the British possessions will be greatly enhanced.

Quadrupeds.

Red Tiger, or Puma, Black Tiger, or Jaguar, Spotted Tiger, or Leopard Tiger . . . — *Destructive only to horses or cattle, never venturing to attack man*
Tiger Cat
Mountain Cow, or Tapir (*abundant in unfrequented rivers*)
Peccary
Indian Rabbit, or Agauti
Deer, Red and fawn coloured (*the red grows to a large size*)
Antelope
Armadillo
Racoon
Opossum
Fox (*a small species*)
Gibbonett
Monkey (*various kinds*)
Baboon
Porcupine (*small*)
Sloth (*a beautiful species*)
Ant-eater
Night-walker
Quash
Otter (*a small species*)

Birds.

Curassow
Qualm, or Guan
Parrots (*various kinds*)
Parroquets
Partridge (*one-third larger than a fowl*)
Quail
Duck, Wild (*a variety*)
Muscovy Duck
Mallard
Snipe
Macaw
King-fisher (*a great variety*)
Hawk (*several species*)
Crane
Flamingo
Wild Turkey (*a splendid bird*)
Vulture (*two species*)
Toucan (*a great variety*)
Goat-sucker
Plover
Pigeon (*a variety*)
Pelican
Boat-bill
Wild Goose
Dove (*a variety*)
Woodpeckers (*a great variety*)
Humming Birds (*a great variety*)
Black and Brown Jay
Weaver Bird
Mocking Bird
Banana Bird
Owl (*various species*)
Water Rail
Night Raven, or Cooper
Trumpeter Bird
Clucking Hen (*great resemblance to Secretary Bird*)
Stilt Bird
Cocorico (*of the Pheasant species*)

Woods.

Mahogany
Cedar
Logwood
Pitch Pine
White Pine
Sapodilla (*Hard*)
Billy Webb (*Hard*)
Button Wood
Cotton-tree Wood
Black Mangrove
White do.
Red do.
Brasilletto
Fustic
Calabash
Iron Wood
Bullet Tree
Dogwood
Ramoon
Rosewood
Moho
Oak
Cabbage Tree
Palmetto
Red Wood (*Hard*)
Axe Master (*Hard*)

Besides the above-mentioned woods, there are many others fit for ship-building and other purposes to be met with in the vast forests of the country. To these the Creoles generally give some name indicative of the quality or properties of the wood.

Fruits.

Cocoa Nut	Pomegranate	Melon
Orange	Custard Apple	Otaheite Gooseberry
Mango	Sour Sop	Mammee
Shaddock	Sweet Sop	Plums (*a variety*)
Avacado Pear	Granadilla	Lime
Star Apple	Tamarind	Naseberry
Pine Apple	Lemon (Sour and Sweet)	Wild Cherry
Guava	Papaw	Kenepp

The Date, Bread Fruit, and Almond Tree have been lately introduced, and thrive well.

Esculents.

Yam (*a variety*)	Cho-cho	Calalue
Yampa	Pumpkin	Coco
Plantain	Squash (*species of Pumpkin*)	Beans (*great variety*)
Indian Corn	Cassada	Cucumbers
Sweet Potatoe	Indian Kale	Garden Egg
Okro		

C. St. John Fancourt,
Superintendent of Honduras.

No. 26. No. 26.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor The Right Hon. Sir C. E. Grey.

Sir, Downing-street, November 2, 1847.

I have received your Despatch, dated 7th September last, No. 22, accompanied by a very interesting Report from Colonel Fancourt, upon the general state of the Settlement of Honduras.

You will have the goodness to convey my thanks to Colonel Fancourt for this very interesting Report; and to inform him, that I should wish to receive some further explanation as to the constitution of the "Public Meeting." I am desirous to be informed for how long a period the members are chosen, and what is the form of election.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Sir C. E. Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) GREY.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

(No. 32.) No. 27. No. 27.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord Harris to Earl Grey.

My Lord, Trinidad, April 5, 1847.

Herewith I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1846, and in accordance with instructions I shall proceed to remark on those subjects which would appear most materially to affect the interests of this colony.

I am happy to give a favourable account of the revenue, on which your Lordship will find there is a total increase of 5767*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* sterling, the amount for 1846 being 85,527*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*; whilst that for 1845 was 79,759*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, there being an advance under every item on which receipts are made, except that of licenses for the retail of spirituous liquors; this I attribute very much to some negligence in prohibiting the illicit sale of rum, which I hope will be corrected. I believe I shall not be found too sanguine in counting upon a steady increase of revenue, more especially as it is in contemplation to equalize and lower the tariff (on which subject a Committee of Council is at present sitting), by which means a greater stimulus and encouragement will be given to commerce. It would afford me great pleasure to be able to diminish, if not altogether to remit a tax which must be so baneful in its consequences as the duty on exports; but I fear that it will not be in my power to do so at present, as the largeness of its amount, and the facility of its collection, render it an important item of revenue.

There has been at the same time a proportionate increase of expenditure in the island, and after carefully looking over the items, I do not see any probability of a material diminution for the future. Though the fixed charges are not large, yet the contingencies, more especially under the heads of immigration and public buildings, are considerable, and may, from the nature and

TRINIDAD.

circumstances of this colony, be expected to continue. The only increase under the first head which need be noticed is that of the judicial establishment, which amounts to 1223*l.*, as compared with 1845; this is accounted for by the allowance given to the marshal in lieu of fees upon criminal processes being brought into the judicial establishment, and also by some changes which took place in the appointment and amount of salary of Judge Wylly. Under the head of disbursements on account of miscellaneous civil services will be found two items, which will at once account for the increase in the expenditure; first, that of the new public buildings being in 1846, 7277*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, against 3983*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* in 1845; second, immigration in 1846 paid in the colony, 18,749*l.* 10*s.* 10½*d.*, against 9785*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* paid in 1845. I have said that I cannot look for any decrease under these two heads; the cost of the new government building and court-houses will amount to a considerable sum this year, and in addition there are rectory houses and police offices to be erected and kept in repair; and a new hospital is also essentially required, the building at present used for that purpose being inconvenient, ill drained, and in many respects inadequate for the purpose. I am also desirous of making additions to the gaol. Neither as to accommodation or arrangement is it what I should wish. It is likewise my intention to make some material changes in the management, by which I hope that a very improved system will be introduced, and which will tend to the moral improvement of the prisoners.

I find the total cost of immigration for the year amounted to 49,427*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, against 18,585*l.* for 1845. I think, from the nature of the circumstances and conditions under which labourers either of Indian or African race are brought here, that a large sum will be required for some years to come, in order to furnish the colony with a proper supply of labour, more especially as there appears to be little doubt that the greater number of the Coolies will return to India at the end of five years. I have taken pains to acquire some certain information as to the state of the supply as compared with the demand for labour, but in consequence of some of the required returns not having yet been received, I cannot afford your Lordship such correct information as I had expected. Soon after my arrival here I called at first for monthly, latterly for quarterly, returns from the stipendiary magistrates on this subject, and in looking over these I find that in most parts of the island the supply was insufficient during the last year, though not so much so as to prevent the cultivation of estates; and it does not appear that generally there is found a very large deficiency during the present crop season. But independent of the question of the actual supply of labour, another is mixed with it which complicates its bearing, which is, even if the supply be sufficient, is it so far adequate as to enable the cultivator of the soil to produce the staple products at a remunerative price? this I believe is hardly the case, and is a difficulty which can only be overcome by an increase of population, and from the pressure which will consequently arise, and by such an improved system of cultivation, and by the introduction of mechanical power, which would enable the employer to economise the number of hands he may require. I have been most desirous to disseminate the knowledge which is required, in order to insure the adoption of such means, and have endeavoured, by establishing agricultural societies, and by the circulation of a journal, as likewise by giving premiums for essays on these subjects, to lead the minds of the cultivators of the soil to the consideration of these subjects; and though I do not feel that my exertions have been seconded, except in one district of the island, the Naparimas, in the manner which I might have expected, yet I am convinced, by a little perseverance, that general attention will be drawn to the absolute necessity of greater economy, and a more judicious application of the means possessed than is at present practised. To the results of this knowledge practically carried out do I look more even than to immigration for an ultimate victory over the difficulties which beset the planter; the latter must ever be costly, and doubtful as to its beneficial effects; the former tends to replace it by inducing men to exert their own powers, instead of looking to external aid; and by leading them to trust to the resources which they possess, will establish a greater confidence in their own powers throughout the struggles they may have to encounter. But to none of the results of science do I look with equal confidence for assistance in the advance of this island to prosperity, as to the establishment of central works and of railroads, the one being necessary to the other, and

both peculiarly adapted to its territorial formation. In fact I feel convinced that the saving which would take place in the destruction of property, which is now constantly occurring in its transit to estates on account of the badness of the roads, would of itself supply a large portion of the expense of laying down rail and tram roads.

It is gratifying to me to be able to state, that satisfaction is generally expressed with the work performed by the Coolies; though some still show a propensity to a vagabond life, the larger number have been steadily employed; and by bringing the master and servants' ordinance to bear on the subject, I hope that the shameful habit which had become too common, of seducing the able-bodied away from their regular employers will be prevented, until the ordinance made for that purpose can be applied.

I have reason to think, that the effect of the master and servants' ordinance has been most beneficial, and that it is gradually demonstrating that an agreement is binding on both the parties concerned, an opinion which does not seem to have been very general previously.

The changes in the civil and criminal laws of the colony, so happily and judiciously adopted by my predecessor, continue to work in a very satisfactory manner, and though more attempts are made to avoid the duties of jurors by pretended ignorance of the English language, than is altogether creditable to the population, there can be no doubt of the success of the measure.

It would add very much to the effect of these laws, and greatly to the convenience of the jurors and witnesses of the southern part of the island, if a Court of Assize were held at San Fernando twice in the year, and a saving would also by this means be effected in the public expenditure.

I have reported to your Lordship so lately on the ecclesiastical state of this colony, and also on the subject of education, that I shall not trouble you at any length in reference to these points. I will only say, that it is my earnest desire to encourage the spread of religious and secular knowledge, as daily experience adds confirmation to the conviction which I have always entertained, that upon it must depend the future prospects of this colony. It is most desirable, that every effort should be made to impress and establish both branches of this most important subject in the minds of the young, so that fixed principles, and not mere desultory knowledge will result therefrom. It would be more encouraging, could I see some interest taken in this matter by proprietors here. At present, I am not aware of a single school supported in whole, or in part, by any estate in the island. It is quite clear, that unless the Government can count upon some such support its exertions must be very much crippled, and not only does this hold good in a pecuniary point of view, but still more in the way of example and direction; the bearing and influence of Government is necessarily precluded from being more than general, whereas individuals can each in their particular localities have the most beneficial effect upon their labourers and neighbours, by manifesting a desire to promote this object.

The statement which I have already made respecting the finances of the colony, will satisfy your Lordship that to a certain extent its trade and commerce are flourishing; at the same time, I believe they might be very greatly increased, were they not impeded by the restrictions which the navigation laws impose upon them. Their influence is more direct upon, and affects to a larger extent, the trade with France, Spain and Venezuela; but in an indirect way they may be considered to impede the entire commerce of the country. As I have in my despatch No. 29, dated the 1st instant, entered more in detail on this subject, I will not enlarge upon it here.

On the whole, I think I may report favourably to your Lordship on the state of this colony; doubtless, there is great room for improvement, both in a moral and in a social point of view, sufficient, and more than sufficient to call for anxious thought and unremitting diligence on the part of those who have to watch over its interests, not a little increased by the varied nature of its population, and the many differences in creeds, habits and customs, derived from the distinct races from which it has been congregated. To unite these races in one bond of fellowship, to show them that their interests are identical, to lead them not only to see, but to feel and to act up to these sentiments, practically, fully, and truly, is a curious, an interesting, but not a very easy task to perform. Still, there appears to me, from all the information I can collect on this subject, good reason to hope for success.

TRINIDAD.

The first and most important step is, if possible, to raise the moral tone of society. I believe it to be advancing, still there is much to deplore, and much in need of correction. I am sorry to say, that marriage is still very infrequent, and its obligations but little understood, and still less adhered to. Pilfering is very general, so much so as to cause great discouragement to the cultivation of provision grounds, and in consequence the supply of fruits and vegetables is scarce and insufficient. There has been of late also, rather an increase in the grosser crimes. A disinclination to continue employed in any one particular trade, and to become master of it, is also very apparent amongst all, but more particularly the younger portions of the community.

Amongst the labouring class, a partial remedy has been already applied to this evil in the shape of Coolie immigration, which undoubtedly has had a beneficial effect on their conduct and habits, and it is a pleasing trait in the character of the negroes, and worthy of notice, that notwithstanding they are aware that they cannot do so much as they like as formerly, and that the Coolies are the cause of this, yet they have almost invariably manifested a kind and conciliatory spirit towards them. It is gratifying to me to add, that amongst them as well as amongst the other classes and races of the community, though the ties of blood may not connect some of them with Great Britain, I believe there is a general feeling of satisfaction at being under her protection, of confidence in her power, and of loyalty to her Government.

I have, &c.

HARRIS.

The Right Hon. the Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 28.

(No. 147.)

No. 28.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Lord Harris.

Downing Street, May 21st, 1847.

My Lord,

I have received your Lordship's Despatch, No. 32, of 5th April, containing your report to accompany the Blue Book for 1846.

I have read this communication with the interest and attention which is due as well to the importance of its contents, as to the care and ability which your Lordship brings to the consideration of every subject connected with the welfare of the colony committed to your charge.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

The Lord Harris,
&c. &c.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 29.

(No. 47.)

No. 29.

Copy of a DESPATCH from General Sir R. Wilson to Earl Grey.

Gibraltar, March 16, 1847.

My Lord,

In transmitting the Blue Book for 1846, I have the honour to accompany it with the following observations for your Lordship's attention.

The Revenue and Expenditure has not exceeded the revenue, but liquidated all charges, although in the sum collected there was a diminution of 510*l.*

The strictest economy prevails in every branch of the local Government, without impairing efficiency.

The Civil Hospital is well conducted. A small building has been erected capable of receiving lunatics; but unfortunately an asylum on a larger scale is much required for this helpless and embarrassing class of patients.

Military Works are making rapid and solid progress; in a few months there will be no breaches in the exterior walls; and the arrival of 300 convicts in Her Majesty's ship "Euryalus" will much assist the construction of the breakwater lines of defence and the excavation of the ditches.

No additions have been made to the civil establishment.

A pension of 500*l.* per annum has fallen in by the death of Mr. Field, the late chief justice.

Commerce.—There is much complaint of decline in the *export* trade to Spain,

and latterly there is a rise in the price of food; but in the month of June, the new wheat of Spain may be expected to arrive, and the construction of the mill for grinding flour, under the lease so liberally conceded by Her Majesty's Government to Mr. Recaño, will, it is to be presumed, protect the garrison and community in future years, from the effect of any scarcity in other countries, and render Gibraltar independent of flour importations.

Schools.—Education is receiving due encouragement. In the year 1845, 1245 children of the inhabitants attended the public schools; in the year 1846 there were 1299 pupils, exclusive of the number of children in private schools, which amounted in the past year to 1311, as well as of the soldiers' children, of which there are 229, making a total for the year 1846, of 2839. Other schools are also projecting.

The Alms Houses, for which a building lease is preparing, have not yet commenced, but necessary preparations are making, and there will be no waste of time in the erection of this most useful and much needed establishment, in a community where there are no poor-laws, but great disposition to promote charitable institutions.

Prisons are in a satisfactory state, with reference to the amount of criminals (last year only six were convicted at the general criminal sessions of the Supreme Court), who are generally very few, and which paucity does much credit to the city.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) R. WILSON.
General and Governor.

MALTA.

(No. 29.)

No. 30.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Hon. Sir P. STUART, G.C., M.G., to Earl GREY.

MY LORD, Malta, March 31, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book of these islands for the year 1846.

With respect to the financial statements contained in the Blue Book, the explanatory notes which have been submitted to me officially by the Auditor-General are so full, that it will only be necessary for me to embody them in this Report, under the following heads, viz.:—

Civil Establishment.

The pay and salaries of the individuals employed in the several branches of the Civil service of these islands, amounted on the 31st December, 1846, to the following yearly rates, including for vacant situations, and classed in the order prescribed in the instructions from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Civil	10,389	5	0
Revenue	4,601	0	0
Judicial (including Police and Quarantine)	22,529	12	0
Ecclesiastical	466	15	0
Public Instruction	3,832	0	0
Charitable Institutions	5,212	0	0
	£47,030	12	0

Of which total, 43,088*l.* 3*s.* borne on the schedule of Fixed Establishment; 200*l.* on the schedule of Provisional Establishment; 2,497*l.* 9*s.* defrayed from the registry fees of the Courts of Justice; and 1,245*l.* from the profits and rents of the Monte di Pietà.

Some further services, not to a large amount, and chiefly ecclesiastical, are defrayed in the class of Fixed Allowances.

Upon the whole, there is an increase since last year, at the rate of 190*l.* per annum, which is explained as follows:—

MALTA.

	£.	s.	d.
Compensation to the Assistant Crown Advocate for loss of emolument on suppression of his office as Secretary in matters of Bankruptcy	85	0	0
Three provisional clerks engaged for three years, for arranging the notarial archives .	120	0	0
Addition to the salary of the Professor of Latin and Italian Literature . . .	20	0	0
One extra clerk, two extra porters, and one extra messenger, engaged on the establishment of the Court Registries. . .	85	0	0
	310	0	0
Deduct.			
A magistrate at 180*l.* (for ten years' service) succeeded by one at 160*l.* (for five years' service) . .	20	0	0
The total number of quarantine guards permanently reduced by one, on a vacancy . . .	20	0	0
Salary attaching to the late situation of Professor of Political Economy, withdrawn from the schedule, against a new arrangement	80	0	0
	120	0	0
Net increase . .	190	0	0

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross receipts of Revenue during the year have amounted to 103,172*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, deducting from which, 4,107*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* for drawbacks, a net income of 99,064*l.* 8*s.* is left for service, being 957*l.* 3*s.* 8¼*d.* greater than the net amount realized in the year 1845. It is, however, nearly 3500*l.* below the average receipt derived during the eight previous years from the same sources of income, a difference which is chiefly accounted for under the head of Landed Rents.

Blue Book Reports, presented by Command, July, 1846; page 118.

In the Report made on last year's Blue Book, and which has been published by authority, the loss of rent that had been sustained through a decrease in the value of agricultural produce is adverted to; but with an observation that no account is to be made in a financial point of view of losses of rent which may be suffered from another cause, namely, a failure in the crops, as a deficiency of income from this cause must be fully compensated by a larger importation of produce subject to duty. This latter cause chiefly operated in 1846, from the excessive drought during the early part of the year; but as the loss fell chiefly on the cotton crop, the abatements of rent made on this account could not find a compensation in the import duties, similar to the one that was derived from a failure in the crops of grain. Hence, the inadequate produce of the revenues in the year 1846 should not be taken as the prognostic of any future declension in the receipts, below the amount which may be considered a fair average to meet the annual expenditure of these islands.

In the quarantine dues there has been an increase of about 100*l.* as compared with the produce of the year 1845, though 800*l.* below the average of former years. This result has proceeded from the more liberal system of quarantine that has been in operation during the last two years, and has been partly compensated by a diminution of expense in the hire of quarantine guards.

The judicial fees are about 300*l.* less than the average for the eight previous years, as adjusted by estimate after the modification effected on the judicial tariff in August, 1845; a decrease which must be attributed to diminished business in the Courts.

Reverting to the landed rents, their amount, including from the separate charities, has been about 3300*l.* below the average for past years. Add to this deficiency 800*l.* in the quarantine dues, 300*l.* in the judicial fees, and 100*l.* generally on other branches, a total of 4500*l.* will be formed; and as this ac-

counts for 1000*l.* more than the net falling off of income, an increase must be looked for from some other sources.

This difference will be found in the department of the Customs, resulting as follows:—

	Receipts of 1846.	Average of previous Years.
	£.	£.
Import duties . . .	66,311	65,722
Tonnage dues . . .	4,586	4,032
Store rent	553	693
	71,450	70,447
Increase . . .	£1003	

In addition to the revenue collected within the year, a surplus fund of 12,862*l.* 10*s.* 5½*d.* remaining from the revenue of former years, was brought forward in aid of the year's resources.

The expenditure defrayed during the year amounted to 112,845*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, including 4107*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* paid in drawbacks of revenue, and 1210*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* written off for loss on the sale of metal derived from Maltese silver coins withdrawn from circulation. Deducting these, a net expenditure of 107,527*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.* remains, which is 4092*l.* 11*s.* 0¼*d.* more than the net amount disbursed in 1845.

This net sum, however, includes only 98,949*l.* 14*s.* 1¼*d.* charged against the resources of the year under the usual annual provision. Add to which, 212*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* left over from that provision to be disbursed hereafter, the expenditure will be found to have exceeded the year's resources by 97*l.* 15*s.* 2¼*d.*, a deficiency which, together with the loss of 1210*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* on the Maltese silver coins, has been made good from the surplus income derived from former years.

The remainder of the net expenditure has been defrayed out of the provisions of previous years, chiefly in accordance with the arrangements originally made, but partly by a substitution of services decided upon within the year 1846. From these provisions, 1,689*l.* 2*s.* 3½*d.* remained to be expended at the end of the year.

On the annual estimate, a saving of 2,350*l.* was happily effected, otherwise a public debt to the extent of about 1,000*l.* must have been incurred to square the arrear account. Of this saving, 585*l.* result from vacancies and alterations on the establishment and pension lists, and from undrawn interest and charges on the Crown property, 1,465*l.* from the contingent services generally, and 300*l.* from the usual grant of 1000*l.* made to cover all casual and unforeseen necessary expenses.

At the end of the year there was left an unexpended surplus fund of 3189*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, deducting from which the two before-mentioned sums of 212*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, and 1689*l.* 2*s.* 3½*d.* reserved for expenditure already provided for, but left over for future disbursement, there remains an available surplus of 1287*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*

Public Works.

Besides the ordinary maintenance and repair of the Government buildings, lands, streets, roads, moles, aqueducts, cisterns, and sewers, and the dredging service for deepening and clearing the harbours, the following sums have been expended on special Public Works, namely:—

£395 in completion of the new aqueduct from Fanara to the Three Cities, and in various compensations contingent upon that work.

£4168 in the construction of an additional line of aqueduct from San Giuseppe to Valletta, not completed, and leaving 10*l.* of the original grant unexpended at the end of the year.

£245 in restoring certain public cisterns in the country.

£1681 in special works and services for the supply of fresh water in consequence of the drought, leaving for future disbursement a balance of 462*l.* from the original grant.

£200 in continuation of the expense of restoring the monuments of St. John's church.

£1907 in the improvement of certain streets and roads.

£1546 in the construction of a new road between the Pietà and Sliema, completed within the year.

MALTA.

£160 in completion of the original grant for cost and repair of furniture for the palace of Valletta, the work remaining incomplete, and a supplemental grant of 200*l.* made for completion of the same remaining over for future disbursement.

£592 in various substantial repairs in the market-house of Cospicua, and in re-constructing the public drains in its neighbourhood, rendered necessary by the construction of the new dock by the naval department, leaving over for future disbursement a balance of 204*l.* from the original grant.

£150 in substantial repairs in the Lazaretto.

£100 applied to the extension of the breakwater at Gozo.

A sum of 3934*l.* which was granted in the year 1845 for the purpose of re-constructing the market-house of Valletta upon an improved plan, has not been availed of, in consequence of the late drought, which rendered this sum necessary to meet both the loss of rents and the expense of supplying water consequent upon the want of rain. The project of re-constructing the market has therefore been abandoned until financial means shall leave room for its being again taken into consideration.

Military.

The expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the military protection of Malta amounted, in 1846, to 90,828*l.* 2*s.* 8¼*d.*, 6200*l.* of which amount having been, as usual, contributed from the local revenues of the island; namely, 1200*l.* in consideration of the augmented strength of the Royal Malta Fencible Regiment to enable it to furnish guards for the coast, and 5000*l.* in aid of the military service of the island generally.

The amount of the military expenditure is 16,739*l.* 0*s.* 9¼*d.* more than in 1845, which is accounted for by the very extensive improvements made in the fortifications.

The amount of bills drawn by the Deputy Commissary-General on the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the military and naval services of the year, was 141,687*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, being 47,959*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* more than the amount so drawn for during the preceding year.

Judicial.

A second Report by Andrew Jameson, Esq., sheriff substitute of Edinburgh, dated 22nd May, 1846, on the revised project of the code of criminal laws for Malta, was brought before the Council of Government on the 29th of December, 1846; and the Council have since been occupied with the consideration of the additional amendments which Mr. Jameson proposes to be made in the project before its being prepared for enactment.

Crime.

Fifty-five indictments were presented during the year in Her Majesty's Criminal Court of Malta against 77 offenders; but as several of the offenders were tried more than once (*i. e.* for various offences under different indictments) the number of prisoners, taken as individuals was only 52.

The offences set forth in the said 55 indictments were:—

Theft	31
Swindling	4
Infanticide	1
Wounding	7
Breach of quarantine	4
Breach of nocturnal precept	6
Carrying prohibited weapons	1
Against nature	1
	55

Taking the number of offenders at 77, acording to the calendar, 46 were found guilty and sentenced to—

Hard labour	33
Imprisonment	9
Fine	4
	— 46

And the remaining 31 were disposed of as follows:—

Acquitted	13	
Found guilty on other indictments	10	
Ceded, offenders punished under other indictments	8	
	—	31
		77

In the island of Gozo, 13 indictments were tried against 15 prisoners for the following offences:—

Theft	3
Fraud	1
Wounding	1
Rioting	1
Carrying prohibited weapons	1
Breach of nocturnal precept	6
	13

And disposed of as follows:—

Condemned to hard labour	5
Condemned to imprisonment	9
	14
Acquitted	1
	15

Ecclesiastical, Education.

Under the heads of Ecclesiastical and Education I have no particular observation to make.

Commerce and Manufacture.

The amount of imports is 57,544*l.* more than in the previous year; the excess will be found in the greater quantities of grain released for consumption during the year, and will be accounted for on a reference to the Report of last year.

The estimated amount of exports is 53,448*l.* more than last year, which is accounted for by the exportation of a greater quantity of cotton manufacture, but chiefly by the re-exportation from bond and transhipments of wheat, barley, and Indian corn, owing to the great demand for the United Kingdom and for France.

The cotton crop was a complete failure in consequence of the drought, and the crop of anise and cummin seed suffered much from the same cause.

Nine merchant vessels, measuring $1526\frac{237}{250}$ tons, were built in Malta during the year 1846, and registered according to law.

Agriculture and Grants of Land.

Nine small patches of waste ground in Malta and two in Gozo were granted during the year, the value of which amounted to 14*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* They were, as usual, given on the application of the proprietors of contiguous lands, to whom alone they could have been of any value, which will explain why the Government in disposing of them did not put them up to public sale.

Population.

The increase of the population beyond the returns of last year, viz. 3984 individuals, requires no observations further than that the increase appears to be chiefly in the greater number of British residents and aliens.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) P. STUART.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 31.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

(No. 31.) No. 31.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Her Majesty's LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER in and for the UNITED STATES of the IONIAN ISLANDS to Earl GREY.

MY LORD, Corfu, July 21, 1847.

THE extra occupation brought upon the several Government offices by the recent session of the Ionian Parliament rendered it impossible for them to furnish the information necessary for the completion of the annual finance statement, called the "Blue Book," before the middle of the month which has just terminated, and although it was forwarded, it was not accompanied by he usual report that I have now the honour to transmit to you.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SEATON.

The Right Hon. the Earl Grey,
&c., &c., &c.

Encl. in No. 31.

Enclosure in No. 31.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1846.

Civil Establishment.

ALTHOUGH the charge under this head appears in the comparative statement of expenditure greater than that for the year 1845, there has been no material change: the increase, as will be shown in the proper place, was occasioned partly by the payment of arrears due for former years, and partly by the extension of the improved police system to the other islands.

The advantages derived from this measure fully justify the extra expenditure; for while crime everywhere is diminishing, the ratio of convictions continues to increase, and the feeling of security is producing improvement throughout the Islands. The arrangements to render the departments of police and sanita more efficient under the Director General has given great satisfaction.

In examining this Report it should be remembered that the olive crop being biennial, the revenues of alternate years are compared. The revenues of 1846, therefore, will be compared with 1844, both being unproductive years as regards oil, the staple produce of Corfu and Paxo; but the expenditure of the year 1846 will be compared with that which immediately preceded it.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The gross amount of the general revenue for the year 1844 was . . .	114,916	4	9^{8}			
Local revenue	20,114	17	0^{3}			
				135,031	1	10^{1}
The gross amount of the general revenue for the year 1846 was . . .	134,435	7	1^{4}			
Local revenue	33,694	9	6^{9}			
				168,129	16	8^{3}

Showing an increase in favour of the latter year of . . £33,098 14 $10\frac{3}{10}$

The articles in the general revenue showing an increase are—

Customs.
Transit duty.
Exports, currants, &c.
Imports, foreign wines and spirits.
Tobacco.
Stamp duties.
Bonding and warehouses.
Registration fees.

The articles showing a decrease are—

Exports on oil.
Imports on grain.
Sale of gunpowder; and
Incidentals.

As the revenue from the Customs usually varies with the amount of the duty upon the exportation of oil, it is satisfactory to find, as an exception to the rule, that while the amount of the latter duty for 1846 shows a decrease of 4,632*l.*, as compared with 1844, yet there is an increase rather than a falling off in the Customs, an apparent anomaly, which has been occasioned by the abundant currant crop, and the high price at which the produce was sold; thus affording to the inhabittants of the currant growing islands the means of purchasing articles subject to the Customs duty. The direct value of the revenue of the abundant currant crop is shown by the amount of the duty, viz., 55,226*l.*; but its indirect influence has not only augmented the Customs, as already stated, but extended to every branch of the revenue showing an increase.

The articles showing a decrease are oil, grain, gunpowder, and incidentals.

The decrease under the head of duty on oil may be accounted for by an earlier demand having brought into the market a quantity of new oil before the close of the financial year 1844, whereas there was no such demand in 1846, and the remainder of the stock on hand was disposed of during this year.

The decrease in the revenue arising out of the grain duty is the natural consequence of the difference of prices during the two years under comparison.

In 1844, the lowness of the actual price, and the anticipation of a rise, induced the merchants to lay in stock, whereas the realization of the anticipated rise in 1846 limited purchasers and sales to the quantity actually necessary.

Reduced as the amount of revenue from the importation of grain undoubtedly is, it nevertheless exceeds the amount calculated upon when the article was again subjected to duty.

In all other instances the decrease is too trifling to require explanation; but it may be as well to observe, that any variation in the sale of gunpowder, which is a Government monopoly, may be attributed to seasons more or less productive of game, or less love of field sports in the garrisons of the several Islands, or any similar contingency.

It will be observed that, in the year 1844, the sanita and police tariffs are stated as producing a revenue of 4,730*l.*, whereas in the year 1846 they appear to have been unproductive. The fact is, that upon the combination of the two departments in 1844, the practice of paying the contingencies out of the revenues, which always obtained in the sanita, became common to both, and the amount of the revenue arising from these sources is shown by the decrease in the contingent expenditure of the united departments.

As well from the causes already stated as applicable to the general revenue of 1844, as to present comparison, the municipal revenue of 1844 is compared with that of 1846, and the comparison gives an increase of 13,579*l.* in favour of the latter; but an examination of the account will show that the increase, though real and satisfactory, is less in amount than it appears to be.

The articles showing an increase are—

Sale of Municipal Lands;
Salines (including sale of salt monopoly);
Arm Licences;
Shop and Tavern Licences;
Fines and Confiscations;
Mole Duties, Santa Maura;
Water Rates;
Incidentals;
Road Duties.

During the year 1844 no municipal property was sold; in 1846, sales to the amount stated took place.

In the year 1844, the profits arising from the salt monopoly were accounted for under the head of General Revenue; and it was not until Act No. 10 of the eighth Parliament was passed in May, 1845, that the produce of the salt monopoly was distributed among the several islands as municipal revenue; hence the great apparent increase in favour of the year 1846.

An Act, still further reducing the duty on arm licences, and facilitating the obtaining of such licences, was passed by the seventh Parliament in April, 1844, and the consequence is, the increase shown under that head of municipal

IONIAN ISLANDS.

revenue. The increase under the head of Shop, Tavern, and other Licences may be atributed to the vigilence and activity of the executive police.

To the same cause, in a great measure, may be attributed the increase under the head of Fines and Confiscations.

In 1844, the port duties were accounted for as general revenue, but became municipal revenue after the passing of Act No. 10, eighth Parliament.

The trifling increase under the head of Mole Duties in Santa Maura, is owing to a casual circumstance, of which there is yet no report.

Until the passing of Act No. 10, of the eighth Parliament, the sum received on account of water supplied was limited to the 400*l.* paid by the military; subsequently, a small rate has been levied on householders in Corfu and Zante, and the amount for the year 1846 was the 254*l.* shown in the Return. There is reason to hope that this rate will in future be more productive.

The revenue, under the item of Inter-Insular Duty on Wines and Temporary Subsidies, was accounted for as general revenue in the Return for 1844; but upon the three most interesting, as indicative of improvement, viz., the three first, there is a decided increase in favour of the year 1846.

The road fund, being supplied by a rate of 4*s.* 4*d.* on each head of cattle, and 7½*d.* on each goat, sheep, pig, &c., imported, as well as an *ad valorem* duty of one and a half per cent. on the exportation of native produce and manufacture, the increase, under the head of Road Duties, is composed of the aggregate increase of all these items, which, in the year 1846, was considerable.

The only items of municipal revenue showing a decrease, are Land Revenue and Incidentals; but in both cases the falling off is not real.

In the year 1844, the receipts were swelled by the payment of arrears due for rent, and the bringing to account the balances of the road fund, which had been kept separate in 1843.

Under the general head of Expenditure, there has been—

	£
A decrease of	12,224
An increase of	3,609
Total decrease	£8,615

The items showing an increase are—

Civil List;
Judicial Establishment;
Education;
Contingencies of collecting Revenue, including Stock;
Military Protection.

The increase under the head of Civil Establishment is occasioned, as already stated, by the payment of arrears, due in 1845, to members of the Legislative Assembly; by a pension to a retired president of tribunals, by pensions to disabled constables; by modifications in various departments; and by the extension of the improved system of police to the other islands.

The increased expenditure of the judiciary establishment is occasioned by the employment of extra clerks in the office of the Supreme Council of Justice; the transfer of the payment of the epistati from the police to the judiciary; and the revival in the several islands of the office of "Sostitute Avvocato Fiscale."

That, under the head of Education, was caused by repairs and alterations in the Minor College Chapel, and adjoining premises; by a gratification to the late directress of the Ladies' School at Corfu, who, after an honourable and useful service of 17 years, was forced, by the state of her health, to retire; also for furniture and repairs of the building appropriated to that establishment; for books and stationary for the use of the Secondary Schools; and the extension of the District Model Schools.

The increase under the head of Contingencies of Collection, &c., is the consequence of a greater supply of paper for stamps.

The sum paid for Military Protection being one-fifth of the net general revenue, the current payments are made on an approximate estimate of the probable amount of the revenue, and the amount is balanced at the termination

of the financial year; but the balance is unavoidably carried to the account of the subsequent year, and it is the balance due for the year 1845 that appears as an increase for 1846.

The articles showing a decrease are—
Rents of Public Offices;
Public Works;
Packet Service;
Contingencies of General and Local Governments.

The trifling decrease under the head of Rents of Public Offices, is occasioned by the transfer of the Zante police office from a hired building to one belonging to the Government.

The charge for Public Works has not really been diminished. The charge on this account for 1845 included a large sum, being a balance due for a steam-dredging machine; but for this, the expenditure for 1846 would be found greater than in 1845; the difference being occasioned by the works carried on in the new prisons in Corfu, the Moles at Zante, Santa Maura, and the repairs in the buildings appropriated to the indigent Parganots.

Neither is the decrease under the head of Packet Service altogether real.

In the year 1845, a sum amounting to 1147*l.* was paid, on account of repairs to one of the Ionian steam-vessels, executed at Trieste in the year 1844, while the receipts for the year 1846 were increased by sums received in payment for coals supplied during the year 1845 to Her Majesty's navy; also by a large surplus transferred from the sanita, post-office and police tariffs, as pointed out in my statement of last year.

The decrease under the head of Contingencies of General and Local Governments, although real, cannot be adduced as proof of a positively decreased expenditure. The amount for 1845 was charged with the ordinary outlay contingent upon a session of Parliament, from which that of 1846 was free; also with 4521*l.*, being the amount of the municipal dues which had been accounted for under the head of Customs, as shown in the Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Upon the whole, I consider this statement as satisfactory. Many of the public works most required, which were undertaken the same year, are nearly completed, and the charges in future may be expected to decrease rapidly, on account of improvements, and also of reduction in several departments.

The new prisons at Corfu will, in a few weeks, be fit for the reception of prisoners.

The debts incurred for the purchase of machines, rendered necessary for the purposes of improvement have in part been paid, and will be finally settled in the course of the year.

The steam-vessels are in such a state of repair, that it is probable no extra expenditure will be required for repairs for some time.

The regulations by which the municipal has been separated from the general finance, continues to work well; and the improved system of police is both useful and popular.

Municipal Finance.

There is an inconsiderable increase of expenditure under the head of ecclesiastical and municipal buildings, caused by the purchase of ground for a cemetery in Cephalonia, and the construction of market-places in Zante and Ithaca.

The lighting of the town of Corfu has been much improved; and the repair of the aqueduct of Corfu, new iron pipes for that of Zante, and the construction of a tank at Paxo, where it was much required, will account for an increased expenditure under these several heads.

There is an increased charge for the mole at Lefchimo, and cleaning the mouth of the river Potami; but the improvement of health and commercial advantages which that important district of Corfu will derive from these works, called for and justified the outlay.

The expenditure for the construction of the canal at Santa Maura has and will in future be regulated by the state of the Treasury: one of the items of expense is 800*l.*, a first payment on account of a steam pile-driver.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

Under the head of salaries some further increase appears; and this is occasioned by the transfer of the prison establishment from the general to the municipal expenditure; a salary to the Protosingelo, performing the duties of the Greek Archbishop of Corfu, who has long been indisposed; and pensions to labourers disabled on the roads; and other municipal works.

Establishing a poor-house in Corfu; extending the model farm at Castellanus; and the purchase of a house in Cephalonia, to serve as a public office, accounts for the increase under the head of incidentals.

There is a decrease of municipal expenditure under the head of ground-rents, or livelli; salt monopoly, moles, hospitals.

Military Establishment.

The Ionian States having no military establishment, by the agreement of the year 1844 with the protecting Government, one-fifth of the net annual general revenue of the United States is paid into the military chest for military protection. The sum received by the Commissary-General last year on that account, amounted to 25,441*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, the general revenue being 127,208*l.* 11*s.* $4\frac{1}{10}$*d.*

Judicial Establishment.

To the former representations on this subject no further observations are necessary. Increased duties have undoubtedly devolved upon the Supreme Council of Justice in consequence of the abolition of the courts of appeal in the several islands; but not more than they can discharge, with the assistance of the additional clerks which has been granted to them.

The beneficial effects resulting from the Circuit District Courts are everywhere acknowledged and justly appreciated.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

No alteration has taken place in the ecclesiastical establishment since the last return was compiled.

Education.

As in the year 1845, the establishments for education at the seat of Government are,—1st. The university: the number of students in which, including seminarists, amounts to 75.

2nd. Ecclesiastical seminary for the education of young men dedicated to the priesthood, who also attend the university.

3rd. Minor college; at present attended by 94 scholars.

4th. Model schools; at which, in addition to the course of instruction common to the primary schools, agriculture is taught both in theory and in practice.

In every island there are, first, a secondary school, where the elementary branches of classical and mathematical learning are taught. In the larger islands each student pays ₤12, or 2*l.* 12*s.* per annum. In Santa Maura, and the three smaller islands, ₤6, or 1*l.* 6*s.* per annum. Secondly, a central school, upon the mutual instruction principle, where the poorer classes are instructed gratis in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

In the central schools the village schoolmasters are trained.

Lastly, primary schools in all the considerable villages upon the same principle as the central school, the buildings and one-half of the salary being supplied by the Government, the remainder of the expenses defrayed by the parents of the children attending.

Commerce.

The observations upon the subject contained in the report of last year are still applicable; and I have only to add that the imports are steadily increasing, and that there is reason to believe that the commercial treaties recently stipulated with Russia, Austria, and Naples, must prove highly advantageous to the commerce and shipping of these States.

Agriculture.

Upon this subject I have little to add to my observation of last year; but it is satisfactory to know that the cultivation of wheat and corn is extended, and a

desire to define boundaries which, a few years back was unknown, is indicated by the operations of fencing, ditching, and draining, hitherto entirely neglected, which are now carried on to an extent that promises further advantages and prosperity.

These improvements, as I have stated upon former occasions, may be attributed to a growing confidence in the protection afforded by the improved system of police. Five years ago scarcely a week passed without a report by the police of rural property damaged to gratify envy or revenge, a crime now seldom heard of.

Population.

According to the returns there is a decrease of the general population of the seven islands to the extent of nearly 3000, and this decrease appears principally to have taken place in the island of Zante; but, as I find that while the male population of that island is stated to be 2000 less than in the year 1845, the number of females continues the same, I conclude that the estimate was made by the local authorities during one of the periods at which a considerable portion of the labouring population quit the island in search of work in the Morea and other countries.

In examining the return of the population, it must not be forgotten that these returns being made by the municipal authorities upon questionable data, can only be considered as approximations.

There exists in these islands a dislike to a census, which is always supposed as preliminary to some measure connected with payment of rents; therefore, any attempt to ascertain the amount of the population by an accurate census would give rise to impressions which it has been thought expedient to avoid till the peasantry can be made to understand the intentions of the local Government in demanding the return required.

Corfu, July 1847. SEATON.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 32.

No. 32.

REPORT on the ANNUAL BLUE BOOK for the Colony of SIERRA LEONE, for the Year 1846.

BEFORE proceeding to notice the contents of the various documents embodied in the accompanying Blue Book, it is necessary for me to observe, should this Report be deemed less satisfactory as regards the onward progress of this colony than that of the previous year, that, in consequence of the absence during the whole year of the Queen's Advocate, the Colonial Secretary, and the Colonial Surveyor, the three principal executive officers of the colony, much of what would otherwise have been effected in their respective departments for the benefit and improvement of the colony has unavoidably remained undone; and I regret, therefore, that I shall have, in consequence, to notice in the following pages works and measures merely commenced or contemplated, instead of, as I had anticipated, perfected and completed.

Although the lengthened absence of the officers above named has of necessity worked injuriously—only temporarily so, however—towards the interests of the colony, and although, I may say, it has consequently stood comparatively still during the past year, yet, can I conscientiously aver, are its prospects still bright and cheering; and it has reason to be grateful to Her Majesty's Government for the very liberal spirit with which the various measures submitted for consideration and approval in my last year's Report have been met and sanctioned; and if the health of those to whom it is intrusted to carry out those measures be spared, I entertain a confident hope that I shall be enabled to announce the completion of the whole of them in my next Annual Report.

I cannot do better than follow the plan I adopted last year, of noticing the returns *seriatim* as they follow each other in the Blue Book, separating those which, either from their importance or from the nature of the information they embrace, call for special notice from those, the information contained in which

SIERRA LEONE.

is either of such minor importance, or of itself so clear and explicit, as not to require any further explanatory remarks.

Amongst the former will be enumerated the returns proper to—

1. Taxes.
2. Revenue and Expenditure (actual and comparative).
3. Public Works.
4. Legislation.
5. Population.
6. Education.
7. Imports and Exports.
8. Agriculture.
9. Gaols and Prisons.

And the remaining returns in the Blue Book will receive such cursory remarks as the nature of their information may seem to require.

1. *Taxes and Duties.*

The only alteration in this return has been the re-enactment of the Additional Duty Ordinance on the 12th September, 1846, and which, instead of being annual, as when first enacted, is now a permanent law, until circumstances shall arise which may call for its being either amended or wholly repealed.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure (Actual and Comparative).*

	£.	s.	d.
The gross revenue of the colony for the year ending the 31st December, 1846, amounts to	27,614	18	11
And the gross expenditure to	23,679	14	2½
Showing an apparent surplus of gross revenue over gross expenditure of	3,935	4	8½
The net revenue, however, after deducting repayment of the loan of 1844-45 to the Commissariat (item 4, page 24), and which was included as a component part of the revenue for 1845; receipts in aid of revenue (item 5, page 26); receipts into military chest, on account of the Liberated African Department (item 9, page 28); and deposit share of revenue seizure, on account of Colonel George Macdonald (item 16, page 24), will amount to only	14,505	14	7¾
And the net expenditure, after deducting salaries of officers paid by the Parliamentary Grant in aid of revenue (item 1, page 21, and item 1, page 23), expenditure of Liberated African Department, paid by Commissariat (item 9, page 29) will amount to	15,759	18	4½
Being an actual excess of net expenditure over net receipts of	1,254	3	8¾
The net revenue for 1846, as compared with that for 1845, shows a deficit of	6,447	9	2¼
Viz.:—In the amount of imports	4,370	1	2½
Receipts of Colonial Hospital	1,704	11	2
Receipts for spirit licenses	218	18	0
And some other trifling amounts, say	153	18	9¾
	£ 6,447	9	2¼

The net expenditure of the colony for 1846 shows an excess of 718*l.* 5*s.* 9¾*d.* over that for 1845.

This excess is accounted for by an increase in the remittances to the Colonial Agents, in the expense of the militia, augmented from 100 to 500 men, and expenses attending the administration of justice.

If, however, we deduct the amount of increase from that of decrease, as shown in the respective columns of the comparative statement of the gross expenditure for the year 1846 (pp. 32, 33), we shall find that, on the whole, the balance of the gross expenditure of the two years is apparently in favour of 1846 to the amount of 11,075*l.* 7*s.* 9½*d.*: this, however, is not actually the case. But, if from this sum be deducted the loan to the Commissariat in 1845 of 6,010*l.*, as well as the difference in the expenditure on account of the Liberated African Department (item 9, page 32), the expenditure of both years will be found to have been pretty nearly equal.

While the expenditure of the two years under comparison is thus shown to have been nearly the same, it cannot, unfortunately, be denied that there has been an actual diminution in the revenue for the year 1846, to the large amount of 5,860*l.* 13*s.* 10¼*d.*

This falling off occurs under two heads of revenue, viz., a loss, in the Customs Import Duties, of 4,370*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.*, and also in receipts of the Colonial Hospital of 1,704*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

The loss in the Customs Revenue is to be accounted for, not by there having been a less amount of goods brought to the coast in 1846 than in 1845, but to the fact that the goods on which that amount of import duties would have been levied, have been taken to the factories in the neighbourhood of the colony direct, instead of having passed through the Customs here, and have thus evaded the import duty.

This practice is almost of daily occurrence, nor is it easy to suggest a remedy for one attended with such injury to the revenue.

The practice already reported in my Despatch, No. 28, of the 13th March last, of large transshipments of goods from foreign vessels taking place in the very sight of the town, though ostensibly out of British waters, (those goods being carried to the merchants' factories within and without the jurisdiction of the colony,) tends very materially to the detriment of the colonial revenue; and the only remedy which at present suggests itself to me, for putting an end to that system, is the establishment, either of an extended and efficient chain of Customs officers, at different stations along the sea coast, from Freetown to Tawry Bay, or of revenue boats, for the especial duty of visiting the whole of that line of coast.

Either of these measures would, of necessity, be attended with considerable expense, and might create a doubt as to whether the remedy were not worse than the disease; but it appears to me that they are the only ones calculated to meet the evil.

Until, however, the question already submitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, in my Despatch above quoted, (No. 28, of the 13th March), relative to the southern boundary of the colony, be definitely settled, nothing can be done towards putting a stop to the large importation of goods duty free into Tawry Bay; nor even then, I am afraid, if the River Camaranca, the river laid down in the chart as such, be declared not to be its boundary in that direction. Whatever may be the ultimate decision on this important question, every day's experience proves the necessity of adopting some measures for the protection of the revenue from such wrongs. And so soon as this question is arranged, I will not fail to bring the whole matter under the consideration of the Local Government; and submit such plan as they may deem most feasible for securing this object, for the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

The decrease in the receipts of the Colonial Hospital of so large a sum as 1,700*l.* in one year, will render it imperative on the Local Government to take into consideration the propriety of increasing the amount of daily stoppages to be charged against patients treated in that hospital, in order, in some way, to meet so serious a falling off. For, although it is neither desired nor intended to render the hospital a source of gain, it is, nevertheless, necessary that it should not be permitted to become a source of positive loss to the colony. It will, therefore, be my duty to bring this question before the Council at an

SIERRA LEONE.

early period, and to report to Her Majesty's Government the steps they may deem it requisite to adopt to guard against a similar loss for the future.

Although, from the preceding facts, it is beyond doubt that the revenue has fallen off to a considerable amount during the past year, and also that the expenditure has exceeded the revenue; it is, nevertheless, a source of congratulation to find that, even with that falling off in the revenue, there was a balance in the chest on the 31st December, 1846, which exceeded that of 1845 by the sum of 3,935*l.* 14*s.* 9¼*d.* The balance at the end of 1845 being 6,452*l.* 19*s.* 6¾*d.*; whereas, the balance on the transactions of the year 1846 was 10,388*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*

The revenue and expenditure of the colony for the year 1846 was estimated, the former at 18,789*l.*, the latter at 17,794*l.* 18*s.* 4¼*d.* And, although the revenue did not realize the amount estimated, it will be seen that the expenditure is under the estimate by about 2,000*l.*

The ground-nut and timber trades are in a very healthy state, particularly the former, which is greatly on the increase, so much so, indeed, as to have considerably interfered with the cultivation of rice in the neighbouring rivers. In fact, so improvident have the natives been in this respect. and so wholly have they confined themselves to the cultivation of the ground-nut, that rice is and has been extremely scarce, and has, consequently, risen in price from 5*s.* to 12*s.* the bushel, and is not always procurable at even the latter price. The scarcity in the rice crops has had the effect of rendering cassada and other articles of food eqnally dear, and 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* is asked for the same quantity of cassada as, not long ago, was purchaseable for 6*d.*

This great increase in the produce trade of the colony ought naturally, and would most assuredly, bring an increase to the revenue, but, that a vast quantity of the goods used in that trade is, as I have before remarked, carried direct to the various factories, without paying any duty to the colony. This is the fact, to a very considerable extent, to the northward of this, where the Isles de Loss, part and parcel of this colony, are made regular depôts for the reception of goods imported by English, Americans, French, and other foreigners, who carry on a large ground-nut and produce trade in the neighbourhood of these rivers free of all duty on these imports.

The revenue leviable on goods imported into the Isles de Loss has, for years, been uncollected, from the fact of the impossibility of procuring the services of a trustworthy and efficient customs' officer at the small amount of salary sanctioned by the Board of Customs (viz. 50*l.* per annum) for this service.

I have long considered it to be highly desirable, that an officer should be located at those islands, who would perform the double duty of manager and collector of the revenue. For, owing to there being no person in authority, on the part of the British Government, residing there, these islands have become depôts for wholesale smuggling, as well as the scene of other illegal proceedings which loudly call for suppression.

The geographical position, too, of these islands, placed, as they are, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Nunez, Pongos, and other rivers, where, amongst other trades, the Slave Trade is not altogether forgotten, would point them out as a fit station for an active and intelligent officer, who, in addition to his duties of collector and manager, might also be entrusted with the office of magistrate, and whose presence would materially tend to bring about a healthy state of society amongst the British subjects (discharged pensioners, fishermen, and liberated Africans) residing at those islands, and who carry on commerce of a somewhat doubtful character with the neighbouring coast.

To obtain the services of an officer in whom confidence could be placed, and to put him, at the same time, beyond the temptation of bribery, which would no doubt be freely tendered to him by the various traders who resort to those islands, I would not be disposed to recommend a less annual salary than 400*l.*, with a boat and six hands; that he might, at all times, keep up a communication with each of the three islands, as well as with the neighbouring coast and rivers. And, if Her Majesty's Government would sanction this measure, and Mr. John M'Cormac, a European gentleman of 30 years' connexion with and experience of this coast would accept the appointment, I know of no man better qualified, in every point of view, to perform the duties thereof efficiently and conscientiously, with credit to himself and benefit to the public. And

I feel confident that, under his surveillance, there is every prospect of the islands being rendered a source of profit to the colony; and the illegal proceedings at present carried on there would very shortly cease. At all events, I respectfully submit that the measure deserves a trial.

The islands themselves are particularly healthy; are situated about 60 miles to the north of this; are easy of access; and, as mercantile depôts, under a proper superintendence, are not to be surpassed.

I had authorized the collector of customs to offer 100*l.* per annum, instead of 50*l.*, to any trustworthy person, who might feel disposed to take the situation of collector of revenue at those islands; but not one in the colony would accept the office on so small a salary.

As, however, that amount was double the sum sanctioned by the Board of Customs, I did not deem myself authorized in increasing it further without a reference home. And I consider this a fitting opportunity for bringing the matter under the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

The question of stationing an officer at the Isles de Loss has been repeatedly brought before the Council, and the propriety of such a measure unanimously admitted by that body; but, in consequence of the very limited amount of salary sanctioned by the Board of Customs, they found it impossible to advise any measures being taken respecting the collection of the revenue at these islands.

Public Works, Roads, &c., (pp. 52, 53).

The amount expended in public works during the year 1846, is, within a few pounds, the same as that of the previous year. Owing, however, to the absence of a colonial surveyor, but few of the works enumerated in this return have been completed.

This return does not show correctly the amount sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government for public works, which is 2180*l.* 1*s.* 8½*d.* instead of 3284*l.* 12*s.* 2¾*d.* The difference between these two sums being the amount of unappropriated estimates brought forward from the previous year.

During the year as much has been done towards placing the various buildings in sound condition as could be effected in the absence of a professional person; and I entertain a confident hope, if the health of the present colonial surveyor be spared, to be able to report, in 1848, that all the public edifices of the colony are in a creditable state of repair; and that a comparatively trifling annual expenditure will be sufficient to keep them so hereafter.

I would respectfully beg to be permitted to take this opportunity of observing, that the existing regulation relative to the previous sanction of Her Majesty's Government being obtained before any repairs can be undertaken, is, in my earnest opinion, not only calculated to work injuriously; but, in fact, does so, both with regard to the buildings requiring repair, and the due economy of the public purse.

The buildings not yet commenced are—1st, a new gaol, greatly needed, for the reasons already submitted in my report of last year, the cost of which will be met almost, if not wholly, by the sale of the present gaol.

2nd. A lighthouse at the Cape, also much required, the expense of erecting which, as well as all expense attending it hereafter, would be amply covered by the light dues, which would be gladly paid by the owners and masters of vessels trading to this port. I had the honour to bring this matter under the notice of Her Majesty's Government in my Despatch No. 185 of the 11th December; and I avail myself of this opportunity of earnestly pressing it on their favourable consideration. The estimated cost of erecting and supporting it will be included in the general estimate for 1848; and will, I trust, receive the sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

3rd. A merchant seaman's hospital, the estimate for which was included in this year's estimate, and sanctioned. The erection of this building, like the two preceding ones, is much called for, as it will be the means of saving the lives of many of those who now perish, more from want of care, attention, and proper nursing, than from want of proper medical attendance, and, as it will be, like that most admirable establishment the "Dreadnought," open to sailors of all nations, it will be a boon of incalculable benefit, not merely to the sick sailors themselves, but to the inhabitants of Freetown; inasmuch, as it will be

SIERRA LEONE.

the means of preventing the dissemination of disease, by having all the sick under one roof instead of, as at present, scattered in sick lodgings throughout the whole town; an evil which has long been felt, and which calls loudly for reformation.

4th. A court hall.

5th. A new police office.

6th. Repairs to the present wharf, almost tantamount to a new one. All of these works being indispensably necessary for the accommodation of the public, and the well-being of the colony.

To enable the Local Government, however, to have these very necessary establishments erected, and completed with as little delay as possible, I would beg most respectfully and earnestly to impress upon Her Majesty's Government the absolute necessity which exists of filling up the vacant office of Assistant Colonial Surveyor; for it is utterly impossible that one man, however well qualified, can superintend and direct the progress of new buildings, and the repairs of old ones, scattered over the face of a whole colony, and being miles apart from each other.

An officer thoroughly acquainted with building in all its branches, a practical architect, rather than a surveyor and engineer, is the description of person required to fill that office. His possessing a knowledge of surveying and engineering would of course be no detriment, but there is no necessity, I submit, for its being made a *sine quâ non* to his getting the office. Such a man would, both as regards the Government, and the mechanics of the colony, be invaluable; for, at present, we can scarcely boast of one really good master workman in the colony; certainly not what would be considered so in England, and work performed by unskilful mechanics is well known to be, in almost every instance, labour, material, and money, completely thrown away.

It is, therefore, as I have before observed, of vital importance that a sound practical architect, possessing a thorough knowledge of his profession, should be sent out to fill the office of Assistant Colonial Surveyor, in order that he might raise up an efficient body of native mechanics for the future benefit of the colony. It is true that the colony has been without the services of an officer in this situation, for many years; and the saving of the salary and allowances attached thereto has been about 200*l.* per annum. If, however, against that saving, be put the loss in buildings, and the extra expense annually entailed on the colony, owing to that office having been so long vacant, it must, I am afraid, be admitted that, instead of saving, the colony has sustained a loss, as well in a pecuniary point of view, as in the unsound state of its buildings, to a much heavier amount.

In order, therefore, to put an end to a system of such questionable economy, I respectfully urge the propriety and necessity of the office in question being filled up with the least possible delay; and, in order to secure the services of a person in every way competent to its duties; capable not only of correcting existing errors in the construction of buildings, but of introducing a new and better system of building generally in the colony, I would further recommend that the salary and emoluments which, at present, amount together to only 195*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, (viz., salary, 150*l.*; horse allowance, 45*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*), be increased to 250*l.* of salary, with a horse allowance; making, in the whole, nearly 300*l.* per annum; an amount of remuneration certainly not exorbitant, considering the value of the services secured thereby. And, in my opinion, the revenue of a colony cannot be more advantageously expended, than in carrying out improvements in it, and securing good and substantial public buildings, roads, and bridges.

With reference to the roads of the colony, they are allowed to be, as far as they extend, superior to the roads in most of the West India colonies. They are all excellent horse roads, considering the very mountainous face of the country.

The carriage roads are at present very circumscribed. It is, however, in contemplation to make a new road from Freetown to the Wellington-road, where it joins the village of Kissy, by carrying a road straight across the flat at Kissy, between the existing road and the river side, thereby avoiding the steep declivities of the present road, which preclude any but very light and small vehicles passing over it. The new road when completed, (which it can

be at a comparatively trifling cost of money and labour), will give to the inhabitants an excellent coach drive of seven miles in length, over a beautiful country. More than half of this road already exists, viz., from Kissy to Wellington. It is, therefore, only necessary to connect Freetown and Kissy together, by such a road as will admit of carriages travelling over it; and which will require about two miles of new road being made over a dead flat, with one bridge over a ravine between Freetown and Kissy. This work was contemplated, if not actually commenced, by the late Mr. Boynton Wood, Colonial Surveyor, by order of Sir John Jeremie, and would, long ago, have been completed, had not death deprived the colony of the services of both. My immediate predecessor, the late Governor Fergusson, also saw the desirableness of this measure; and, had he been spared, would have carried it into execution.

4. *Legislation* (*pp.* 56-59).

Of the seven ordinances passed during the year 1846, and enumerated in this return, the Police, Militia, and Speedy Ejectment Ordinances are, in their nature, of the greatest importance to the colony.

For years the community have suffered from the want of a police law, and defective even as the present one may be it has already been of vast benefit to the inhabitants; and as it is undergoing amendment, in conformity with instructions to that effect from Her Majesty's Government, and will be carefully watched in its working, so as to be further amended whenever it may be found defective, I am greatly in hopes that ere long a sound police law, in every way suited to the circumstances of the colony, will be secured, which must prove a lasting benefit to the colony.

With regard to the Militia Act, it need hardly be stated here that, situated as this colony is, almost entirely surrounded by tribes in whose friendly dispositions towards us no reliance for any time can be placed, it is essentially necessary to have a well disciplined and effective militia force ready at a moment's warning for any contingency which may happen. In fact, the knowledge that such a force does exist, tends very much to keep in check that predatory and over-bearing spirit which, in the absence of a local force, would not be slow to manifest itself, as past experience has satisfactorily proved even on the part of those native chiefs who profess the greatest friendship towards the colony.

The present militia force, much to the credit of the colonists be it spoken, was raised to its present strength, 500 men, entirely by volunteers. There was not occasion to ballot for a single man; in fact, there were upwards of 2000 volunteers from all districts of the colony anxious for enlistment in the corps, and it is composed of as fine a body of strong, active, young men as can be found in any coloured regiment of equal strength; and if ever their services should be required in the field, I have not the slightest doubt but that they will prove their loyalty to the Crown by gallantly performing every duty required of them. They are all very proud of being enrolled as militia men, and so long as such a spirit exists there need never be any fear as to their conduct. The old militia corps, disbanded in 1842-43, was as serviceable a body of native troops as I ever saw; many of whom have enrolled themselves in the newly embodied militia. And I feel confident that in a few months this corps will be equally serviceable with the regular troops, particularly as I have been fortunate enough to secure the services of an officer of the garrison as their adjutant, who is well acquainted with the present system of drill.

The ordinance to provide for the more speedy ejectment of persons holding Crown lands, will work most beneficially for the colony, although it will necessarily take some time before its benefits can be felt and appreciated. The regret is, however, that it had not been passed years ago; for the system of squatting has been carried to so great an extent, that the Local Government will have considerable trouble in recovering from the squatters the land, in many instances, most valuable as regards site, though illegally taken possession of.

There are, however, many cases which this ordinance cannot reach, owing to the period therein laid down as giving a title to the land (viz. three years undisturbed occupancy) being so limited as to exclude from its operation a vast number of cases of squatting which cannot be passed over; as, however, the

SIERRA LEONE.

common law regarding the removal of parties in illegal possession of lands is not only tedious, but very expensive, the Queen's Advocate is now preparing an ordinance to expedite and render more cheap and practicable that process of ejectment.

The ordinance for warehousing rum and tobacco did not come into operation before the 1st January, 1847, and Her Majesty's approval and confirmation thereof have not yet been notified to the Local Government. Having been in operation but a few months, there has scarcely been a sufficient lapse of time to judge how it will work. I shall therefore defer noticing it further, until my report on the Blue Book for 1847, to which year the subject more properly belongs.

The ordinance for levying a tax on all stores and shops in Freetown, noticed in my report for 1845, has been brought in, and has passed a first and second reading; owing, however, to the absence of the Queen's Advocate, it was deemed adviseable not to proceed to the third reading until that gentleman's arrival, and he had an opportunity of examining its provisions, previously to its being passed into law.

Connected with that measure, an ordinance for amending the present one, regulating the sale of spirits in the colony, has also been introduced and passed a first and second reading, and is under revision by the Queen's Advocate, preparatory to its being brought up for a third reading.

The ordinance for registering and licensing the boats and canoes of the colony, noticed in my last year's report, has not been brought forward; first, owing to the absence of the Queen's Advocate; and secondly, in consequence of Her Majesty's Government requiring information respecting it, prior to sanctioning the measure. That information has been furnished, and I merely await the receipt of a decision thereon, to take such steps respecting it as may be necessary.

5. *Population.*

The census of the population of the colony for the year 1846 shows a decrease of nearly 3000 souls compared with that for 1845.

I am, however, inclined to believe that there must have been some error in taking the census for 1846; for there has not been any cause during the year which would, in any way, account for so very marked a decrease.

Excepting during the years when emigration was carried on from this colony to the West Indies, I have found that the population of the colony remained pretty stationary, and that the births, on an average of years, equalled the deaths; and I think that the population of the colony may safely be stated at about 45,000 souls.

There has been no emigration from the colony during the past year, neither has there been any increase in the mortality, which would account for a decrease of 2708 souls; on the contrary, there has been an importation of nearly 600 liberated Africans in the "Paqueto de Rio," as already reported to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, and the past year has been an extraordinarily healthy one. It is clear, therefore, that there must have been an error in taking the census; and that if there exists any difference in the population of the two years, it ought rather to be in favour of 1846.

It is extremely difficult to take the census here correctly. It cannot be taken, as in England, in one day. Here, it is the duty of one individual alone to be engaged between two and three months in visiting each house in the town, and taking down, as correctly as he can obtain it, the names of their occupants; and even with the greatest care errors will occur.

I shall, however, try to devise some mode which will have the effect of rendering it less difficult than at present to take the census of the colony; and I hope to have a new plan adopted for taking that for this year (1847).

It is also extremely difficult, in fact impossible, to arrive at a correct computation of the births and deaths. The statement given in the Population Return under these heads is only baptisms and burials, not births and deaths. Very many children are not baptized at all; and as the births are not reported or registered, no account is taken of them. On the other hand, numbers of the native population die, particularly amongst the newly-imported Africans, who are buried privately, according to their own country custom; sometimes in the bush and often in the floors of their own dwellings.

An ordinance was passed many years ago for compelling the registration of births and deaths; it has, however, never been enforced; nor would it be an easy matter to have its provisions carried out effectually, for the coloured inhabitants view with an extraordinary degree of jealousy and distrust any le al enactment of this nature. I shall, however, not lose sight of this very important subject, and shall, at an early period, bring the matter before the notice of the Legislative Council, with the view of some amendment being made in the existing law, so as to ensure its efficient working.

6. *Education.*

The returns of schools for the year 1846 show, as compared with the like returns for the previous year, a falling off in the total number of scholars of both sexes attending school of 453. The number in 1845 being 8134, and in 1846, 7681. Of the total number attending school in 1846—

3276	Attended the Church Missionary schools.
1789	Those of the Wesleyan Mission.
2148	Educated by Government (home and local), being liberated Africans under 12 years and colony-born children.
468	Attended the day and Sunday schools conducted by the native members of the Huntingdon, West African Methodist, and Anabaptist societies.
7681	Total.

It is difficult, satisfactorily, to account for the decrease in the number of children attending the various schools during the past year, as compared with the previous one; their attendance depending, as it does, so much on the caprice and whim of their parents, who in very many instances compel them to go to school for a short time, such as a week or a month, and afterwards withdraw them voluntarily, without any ostensible reason, and permit them to absent themselves for months together.

One reason, however, may be justly assigned for the irregular attendance of the native children at school; and that is, that as the parents are, generally speaking, too poor to hire servants, and as the apprenticeship system has long been discontinued, they are necessitated to avail themselves of the labour of their children the moment they are old enough to be of service to them; either in attending the market, going fishing, cultivating the soil, or hiring themselves out as labourers or servants; and during the season for making arrow-root, picking and drying ginger and pepper, it is not an uncommon thing to see a school, densely attended at other seasons of the year, almost wholly deserted, and, indeed, completely so, of children who have arrived at an age to be of the slightest service in either of the foregoing occupations. Little importance, therefore, can be attached to the mere fact of a decrease in the number of scholars in any one year, as compared with another; for, if reference be made to the educational returns for previous years, even larger and more striking fluctuations in the number of scholars will be seen, and which cannot in any other way be accounted for than by what I have above stated.

No change has as yet taken place in the system of education pursued here; nor do I anticipate that it will assume a more industrial character, or that any alteration will be made therein for some time to come.

The clergymen engaged in the education of youth here agree, it is true, in the general opinion as to the expediency of a change, and the advantages to be derived from the adoption of a practical, industrial education, more suited to the wants and sphere of life of the scholars than the present system. But, although advocating the principle, none have yet begun to put it in practice.

The Brief Practical Suggestions for the establishing and conducting of normal and industrial schools for the education of the coloured inhabitants of Her Majesty's colonies which have been lately received, have been widely circulated amongst all classes of the inhabitants, and I am in great hopes that the missionaries and other influential members of the community may be led by the suggestions therein contained, to make an attempt towards establishing a

SIERRA LEONE

system which is so eminently calculated to work beneficially for the scholars themselves.

With the view of creating a spirit of emulation amongst the scholars under the tuition of the Reverend Mr. Jones, at Fourall Bay Institution, and amongst the boys educated by the Reverend Mr. Peyton, at the Freetown Grammar School, I have established from my own resources prizes for each school of the value of 5*l.*; and I would respectfully suggest, that were the Government to sanction a small sum annually from the funds of the colony, to be distributed as prizes, it would be attended with the most beneficial results; and 20*l.* so devoted would be well laid out. The distribution of these prizes, would be conducted as elsewhere, by a board of examiners appointed by the local Government, and awarded, in the name of the Government, to the successful competitors.

I would appropriate a portion of this sum, (or any other sum which Her Majesty's Government may please to sanction,) to be distributed as prizes amongst such scholars as should evince the greatest proficiency in some mechanical art, or in husbandry, as well as in their other studies. And probably, when it is known that prizes will be distributed to such scholars, Wesleyans as well as Church Missionaries might be induced to turn their attention to the establishment of industrial schools, sooner than they otherwise might.

Every inducement to secure so desirable an object ought to be held out; for, with all the good that is done under the present system, no real or lasting benefit can ever be secured to the inhabitants of this colony, or the African race generally, until the children are instructed; the boys in agricultural and mechanical arts, and the girls in the usual social and domestic acquirements; which would render them useful to themselves, to their families, and neighbours, in after life. In fact, both should be taught every occupation calculated to unfold the inexhaustible resources of the human frame and mind. For it is of little purpose for the children here to be able to read merely. It will not of itself teach them to earn their bread, or cultivate the soil. That they ought to read and write, is, of course most desirable; but they ought to do both to better purpose than at present.

The occupations I have named should be taken up by turns, as far as practicable, and keeping in view, always, the intended sphere of life of the scholar, each boy and girl should be made acquainted with them all.

By adopting this, or a somewhat similar course, I am of opinion, that a far greater amount of lasting benefit would be secured to the African, than by the present exclusively book education.

With the view of reducing these general principles to practice, I would beg to suggest that an arrangement might be entered into with the members of the Church Missionary Society to the effect that, to them should be committed the education of the youth of the colony, upon condition that they should put them through a course of secular education, to be prescribed by the Government. The religious portion of their studies being, in return, left entirely to their discretion.

In order to insure a strict compliance with this condition, I would further suggest that a standing board of examiners be appointed by the local Government, whose duty it should be to examine the pupils at stated periods, and to visit the schools as often as it might be deemed necessary, without previons notice being given to the superiors of the schools.

In concluding this subject, I beg I may not be understood as submitting the foregoing, as by any means, a perfect system; but merely as being one within the compass of the limited means at present at our disposal. The working of which would, in all probability, lead, at no distant period, to a plan of industrial education of a higher and more systematic order.

7. *Imports and Exports* (*pp.* 157–176).

The gross value of imports for the present year are 6,000*l.* less than the imports for 1845.

This falling off is confined principally to the articles of cotton goods and spirits; in the former of which there is a decrease in the amount imported in

1846, as compared with 1845, of 4,080*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, and in the latter of about 500*l.*

As I before observed in my remarks on the revenue, this difference does not in any way argue that there has been that amount less of these articles brought to the coast. Such, I believe, is not the case; on the contrary, if all the goods brought to this part of the coast, for the purpose of carrying on trade in the immediate vicinity of the colony, were imported into the colony in the first instance, a very marked annual increase in the imports would be perceptible. As such is not the case, however, but, as large quantities of goods are annually taken direct to the neighbouring rivers, without passing through the customs here, a manifest decrease in the gross amount of imports, as well as in the amount of revenue arising therefrom, must be the result.

In the article of tobacco there has been an increase to the amount of 500*l.*, and I have no doubt the importation of that article will annually increase, under the newly established bonding system.

Under the head "Sundries," there is a great falling off; the gross amount in 1845, being 14,346*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, while that for 1846, amounts to only 2,275*l.* 17*s.*

The importations of woollen goods for 1846 is double of that for 1845. And, in the item of provisions, the value imported in 1846 amounts to 7,760*l.* 5*s.*, whereas, in the previous year, it amounted only to 2,693*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

In Manchester goods, also, the difference is in favour of the present year. The amount imported in 1845, being 1,410*l.*, and in 1846, 3,654*l.*

A like increase is also perceptible in the importation of Indian goods, which amounted in 1846 to the large sum of 13,779*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, whereas, in the previous year, the value of the imports of that article was only 7,909*l.* 10*s.*, being little more than half of that imported in 1846.

The fluctuation in the amount of the various staple articles of commerce and consumption imported annually is remarkable, and baffles every attempt at a satisfactory explanation. Neither can it be considered as an index of the general increase or decrease in the trade of the colony; for the natives are so capricious in their dealings, that it is often extremely difficult to satisfy their wishes, and the article they greedily seek after one season, they will utterly refuse the next. Hence follows the great difference discernable in the amount of some articles imported in different years, as already evinced in the examples I have already quoted, and to which may be added the item of "Ale and Porter," articles of universal consumption; the value of the importation of which articles was in 1845 upwards of 3,900*l.*, whereas, in 1846, it does not amount to half that sum; and so of other articles.

Although there has been a decrease in the amount of the imports during the year just ended, there has been an increase in the amount of the exports, to a far greater amount; the gross exports for 1845 being 103,384*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and for 1846, 125,878*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, being nearly 22,500*l.* in favour of the latter year; which satisfactorily supports what I have already advanced; that, although there is a decrease in the revenue, there is no falling off of the trade.

To make this more plain, I will state the manner in which the export product trade of the colony is in many cases conducted.

A vessel arrives consigned to a merchant of the colony, to be loaded with ground-nuts or any other produce. The merchant has factories in the neighbouring rivers, for the collection of produce; at which factories goods have been landed free of duty, in the manner I have already stated, either by transshipment, or by being carried there direct. The produce cargo is thus purchased almost, if not entirely, by goods which have paid no duty. When the produce so purchased and collected is required for shipment outwards, the merchant despatches one or two of his coasting vessels to his factories, which return loaded with produce; and as there is no duty on African produce imported in English bottoms, they are laid alongside the vessel waiting for a cargo; and she is loaded and clears out, as if her cargo were the growth and produce of Sierra Leone, which is not the case, nor does the colony reap any benefit by the transaction, beyond the specious one of swelling the return of exports to no purpose.

This is generally the practice with vessels arriving for ground-nuts, and as that trade is increasing daily, and is, indeed, as extensive and valuable as the

SIERRA LEONE.

timber trade, it will be seen, from what I have here stated, that goods to an immense amount, are used in what is called the export trade of the colony, which do not bring one farthing to the revenue.

The mode in which these transshipments take place is so barefaced, and has been so often brought under the notice of the collector without any good result, that I am induced to detail them here, with the view of bringing the matter under the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

A foreign vessel comes in this port, with prohibited articles on board. The master or supercargo finding they cannot be landed, makes an arrangement with a merchant in the town to purchase them, when the foreign vessel, accompanied by a small craft belonging to the merchant, proceeds out of the harbour, but often in the very sight of the Custom-house, and there a transhipment of the prohibited articles takes place, and they are either immediately brought into the colony in the British merchant's vessel, and are then admitted to entry by the collector (that officer declaring that he is not authorised in refusing them, as they are imported in British bottoms), or are taken up to his factory in the neighbourhood, and are there used, as I have shown, in the purchase of produce.

Whether this proceeding is strictly correct, I leave to others to say; but it certainly does not appear so to me, because the mere fact of transhipping prohibited articles from a foreign to a British vessel, even out of British waters, cannot, in my opinion, give them a right to entry at a British port.

To return from this digression to the comparison between the exports of the years 1845 and 1846, it appears that there has been an increase in the latter year, in the computed value of the exports of the following articles, viz.:—

	1845	1846	Increase.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d	£. s. d.
Timber	20,484 0 0	34,232 0 0	13,748 0 0
Hides	2,668 13 7	10,554 10 7	7,885 17 0
Ground-nuts	19,807 14 0	20,471 18 6	664 4 6
Bees'-wax	3,043 9 0	4,616 0 0	1,572 11 0
Ginger	6,442 4 10	14,631 13 2	8,189 8 4
Gum Copal	782 3 6	1,554 2 0	771 18 6
Ivory	1,411 19 8	2,618 4 0	1,206 4 4
Rice	925 0 0	1,789 12 0	864 12 0
Gold	103 0 0	1,604 0 0	1,501 0 0
Making a total increase in the exports of the above articles for 1846, of			£36,403 15 8

And that there has been a decrease in the amount exported, of

	1845	1846	Decrease.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cam-	12,485 0 0	5,940 15 0	6,544 5 0
Coffee	1,395 12 8	378 16 0	1,016 16 8
Palm oil	29,308 10 0	24,828 6 0	4,480 4 0
Pepper	2,146 8 1	1,197 14 5	948 13 8
Showing a decrease in the exports of the foregoing articles for 1846			£12,989 19 4

The difference in the other items of export are so trifling as not to deserve particular notice.

Now, if we deduct the decrease from the increase, as shown above, we shall have a net increase in the estimated value of the exports of the colony for the past year, of 23,413*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

With such an increase in our export trade, it is reasonable to look for a corresponding increase in our revenue; inasmuch as, with the exception of occasional cargoes of timber being purchased for cash, the whole export trade is carried on with goods—in fact, it is a barter trade.

I much regret, however, that it has been my duty in these remarks to show that, unfortunately, an increase in our exports has not brought with it that increase in our revenue which might naturally be expected, for the reasons already stated, viz., the system of transhipment, and carrying goods to the neighbouring rivers, without passing them through the customs here.

Whether any remedy can be devised to put an end to this ruinous system I leave to those better versed in mercantile matters than I profess to be to determine.

The next subject to be noticed is

8. *Agriculture.*

In my last year's Report, I entered fully into this question; aad I have to thank his Lordship the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the very considerate manner in which he was pleased to entertain my views on this and other important subjects mooted therein.

The agricultural returns for the two years 1845 and 1846 show a nearly equal quantity of the various articles of produce raised during each year.

No advance, however, has been made in the general system of agriculture of the colony since the date of my last Report. Nor has any one here turned his attention to the cultivation, on a large scale, of either coffee, cotton, or sugar. In fact, unless either the Government or some wealthy person will start such an undertaking, it is useless to expect it will ever be attempted by the natives. They have not the means to commence or support it. Were a coffee, cotton, or sugar plantation, however, once established, and fairly started, I have no doubt that in a very short time, the more wealthy of our coloured population would turn their attention thereto; particularly to coffee and cotton.

Once, that the agricultural resources of the colony were fairly developed (and the whole of its soil may almost be considered virgin soil); and it was clearly shown to the inhabitants that coffee, cotton, and sugar, in addition to the ginger, pepper and arrow-root now raised, can be cultivated with success; what an inexhaustible source of wealth—what incalculable benefits would thus be secured for the succeeding generations of the colony.

I had the honour of transmitting, some time back, some samples of the iudigenous coffee and cotton of this colony to Earl Grey, from which I have no doubt his Lordship will be able to determine whether it would be desirable that the cultivation of these articles, particularly the coffee, should be undertaken under the auspices of the Government, with the view of leading the attention of the inhabitants to this important subject; and of ultimately inducing them to undertake cultivation on their own account.

9. *Gaols and Prisons.*

Having already reported upon the defective state of the present gaol as a building; as well as upon the equally defective system of prison discipline at present existing; and which cannot be altered or amended until a new gaol be erected; I will confine my present remarks to the state of crime in the colony during the year 1846, as compared with the preceding year.

Although the total number of prisoners committed during 1846, appears by column 6, p. 192, to have been more than during the year 1845, still, the general character of crime during the latter year is less grave than during the former.

I regret, however, that I cannot conscientiously assert that crime, in the aggregate, is diminishing. Indeed, the number of prisoners on each kalendar would sufficiently prove the reverse of this to be the case; inasmuch as these documents show, that larcenies and other felonies of a serious character are of continual occurrence.

Crime has lately assumed a somewhat different aspect here. In addition to the offences of larceny, burglary, and violence to the person, common alike to barbarous and to civilized communities, offences supposed more properly to belong to the latter have lately displayed themselves, such as the crimes of forgery, getting money and goods under false pretences, &c. The kalendar, however, forms a very imperfect index of crimes of this nature; for I am informed that numerous cases of gross fraud and cheating have occurred, which it was impossible to bring within the reach of the Criminal Law. For instance, the following is a brief account of a case, by no means an isolated one, of above description.

A party of Gold strangers arrived in Freetown from Sego. They unfortunately fell into the hands of designing persons, who are ever on the look out for such opportunities of plunder, who represented to them, that, if they would entrust them with their gold, they would procure for them manufactured goods

SIERRA LEONE.

in return. The Gold strangers entered into the proposal, and delivered their gold into the hands of these people; who never returned either its value in goods or the gold itself to the strangers. These parties, I am informed, cannot be punished criminally, the only means of redress of the Gold strangers being by a civil action, which, in such an instance, I am also informed, would be nugatory.

I will offer another example of the extreme cunning and wickedness occasionally to be met with amongst the liberated African population here, and close my observations on this subject. The facts of the case are these—a man called on the Queen's Advocate, and stated, that he had purchased a piece of ground with a house on it from a woman, to whose husband the said ground had, many years ago, been granted. As the husband died intestate, the title of the widow to the whole of the property would have been worthless, and, in order to support her title, a deed was produced by the applicant, purporting to be a deed of gift from the husband to the wife, and bearing date so far back as 1814. The deed was dark and discoloured; and, under a careless inspection, would probably have passed for a genuine document. The Queen's Advocate, however, happened to entertain some suspicion as to its authenticity, and casually held the document up for closer inspection; when, to his astonishment, the water mark proved that the paper on which the deed was written, was manufactured in 1839. It was also obvious that it had been subjected to the action of smoke, in order to give it the ancient appearance which it presented.

More need scarcely be said to prove the necessity which exists of great amendment in the system of education at present followed; as well as of an entirely new system of prison discipline. I would, therefore, respectfully beg, that Her Majesty's Government may not overlook the importance of having a governor of our prison qualified to establish and carry out an efficient system for regulating its interior economy.

Civil Establishment.

In the civil establishment of the colony no changes have taken place, excepting the appointment of Mr. Thomas O'Brien to the colonial secretaryship, and the promotion of the writers, consequent on the confirmation of the former colonial secretary in the government of the colony, and the resignation of Mr. Macrae, the senior writer, respectively.

The appointments in the rural districts remain unaltered; nor has there been any change in the Liberated African Department.

The foregoing remarks are also applicable to the Judicial and Ecclesiastical Establishments, in neither of which has any alteration taken place.

Grants of Land.

The form of this return is scarcely applicable to this colony; and it is wholly impossible, owing to the defective state of the Grant Records, to obtain the necessary information to complete it. It would, in fact, be necessary to have a complete survey of the colony made, solely with the view of ascertaining the number of acres under cultivation at the time of such survey, in order to form some data by which to be guided for the future. This, however, would be a work of considerable time, trouble, and expense; and the time of the surveyor and engineer is so thoroughly occupied in superintending the erection of new buildings and the repairs of old ones, that it is uncertain when he will be able to undertake such a task.

One cause of difficulty in affording the information respecting the number of acres under cultivation is the fact, that the liberated Africans located in the rural districts seldom cultivate the same piece of ground two years in succession, if they can get any fresh land for this purpose. What is cultivated one year is left waste the next, and is very soon covered over with bush. The consequence of this is, that the face of the country is continually changing; and it is utterly impossible to arrive at anything like a just estimate of the extent of land under cultivation.

I think it right to refer here to a practice which has been adopted by my predecessors; but, which with all deference to their better judgment, I have always considered injurious to the best interests of the colony. I allude to the system of granting permission to strangers to cut timber (teak) on Crown lands

within the colony, for the purpose of disposing of that timber to the merchants of the colony, for which timber, be it remembered, the colony does not and never has received the slightest return, pecuniary or otherwise.

This timber abounds in the western or sea district of the colony, from False Cape to Fawry Bay, including the latter; and the part of that district where these strangers have been permitted to cut it is from Bombatook Point, in the neighbourhood of York, to the village of Kent, the extreme settlement on the sea coast of the colony.

Many ships take in their cargoes at Bombatook, and lower down, within the jurisdiction of the colony, annually; and many hundred loads of timber are exported; but, as I have before observed, in consequence of a vast quantity of the goods employed in purchasing this timber from the strangers being smuggled into Fawry Bay and the neighbouring factories, the colony, not only gains nothing by this annual export of the timber, but, on the contrary, is a loser to the amount of the value of that timber annually.

I have had this matter under my very serious consideration, and have consulted some of the mercantile gentlemen in the colony engaged in the timber trade and others; all of whom agree with me in the desirableness of adopting an entirely new system; and I have, therefore, been induced to propose that, instead of giving to utter strangers the whole benefit of our timber, it would be wiser in every point of view to put up to public competition certain tracts of the country on which this timber grows, securing to the highest bidder, should the price offered be sufficient, the exclusive right to the timber growing thereon. By this means, a considerable sum annually will be secured to the colonial revenue; and employment will also be found for a vast number of our own people, who are wholly without the means of gaining an honest livelihood.

I would have carried this measure into effect before this; but that, in the first place, I had no surveyor to lay out the different tracts of land to be so allotted; and, secondly, because I did not desire suddenly, and without previous warning, to interfere with the arrangements regarding this timber, which might have been made between the merchants in that trade and the parties cutting it. The shipping season, however, being almost over for this year (1847), I shall cause notice to be given to all engaged in that trade, that the old system of cutting teak timber is at an end, and that, in lieu thereof, tracts of land on which that timber grows will be put up for purchase (the timber only) by public auction, when should the price offered be deemed sufficient, the highest bidder will be declared the purchaser.

I have every reason to believe that this plan will work beneficially for the merchants concerned in the timber trade: and it will also convert the Crown timber into a source of revenue to the colony, instead of being given away actually for nothing, as has been the case for years past. At all events, I consider the plan worthy of a trial.

Mines and Fisheries.

The remaining returns in the "Blue Book" do not call for any remarks. Our manufactures scarcely deserve the name, and, as to mines, the resources of the colony are so little known, that no one can tell whether any and what mines are in it.

Fisheries, public ones, there are none. The colonists, however, employ a large number of boats and canoes in the trade, and the market is always well supplied with excellent fish, with which the sea in the neighbourhood, and the rivers abound.

I do not deem it necessary to make any further remarks here upon the value of the coins in circulation, having, since my last year's report, brought this matter a second time under the notice of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. I will merely, in conclusion, express a hope that, before Her Majesty's Government comes to any fixed resolution on that, to this colony, most important question, they will be pleased to take into their mature deliberation the facts which I have already submitted to them, as proving the injury this colony sustains, in consequence of the value of the coin in circulation being fixed below its real value.

N. W. MACDONALD, Governor.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
13th May, 1847.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 33.

(No. 19.) No. 33.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor WINNIETT to Earl GREY.

MY LORD, Cape Coast Castle, February 20, 1847.

I BEG to forward to your Lordship the "Blue Book" in duplicate, for the year 1846, accompanied by my own Report.

In this statement I have confined my remarks principally to those subjects which I conceived to be of much public interest, and respecting which I have had an opportunity to become more intimately acquainted with.

But the short period of my residence in this colony has obliged me to pass over many other heads of statistical information, which I purpose to embrace more fully in my next Annual Report.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. WINNIETT, Lieut.-Governor.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR WINNIETT'S REPORT.

[To accompany the "Blue Book" for the Year 1846.]

Population.

During the space of the last 15 years a most extraordinary change has taken place in the aspect of the population of the various districts which have enjoyed the advantages of being within the range of British jurisdiction. Its numerical increase has been very great, as may be daily proved by the numerous new villages which are rising on every hand. It may not be saying too much to state, that during the time above mentioned the villages in the Fanti country, and among the Assins, have increased, on an average, about 15 per cent. The character of the native dwellings is also greatly improved, and, consequently, many of the towns and villages wear an aspect of permanency and durability which seem altogether new. Associated with this interesting advancement in civilization is another gratifying feature, namely, a taste for articles of furniture of European manufacture and European clothing; the change which has taken place in this respect during the last 10 years is amost incredible. It is to be hoped that the advantges of the fostering care of the British Government, and the onward progress of the Christian religion for a few years to come, will give to the native population of the Gold Coast, &c., an aspect somewhat similar to that which is now exhibited in the West India Islands.

There has not been any census of the native population of this colony ever been attempted to be taken; from certain data, however it may be safely assumed that the aggregate number of the population of those districts which acknowledge and are amenable to the jurisdiction of this Government is not less than 275,000, scattered over a territory of about 6000 square miles. This population have no manufactures (worthy of the name) existing among them, but may be divided into three classes, viz., agriculturists, traders, and fishermen.

The number of whites at present in the colony is 37, of whom three are females.

Agriculture.

During the course of the last eight years the cultivation of coffee has been introduced into the colony, and the results prove, that by a careful selection of soils and situations, and proper attention to the best modes of culture, this article of commerce may be grown to almost any extent; and the flavour of the coffee grown in this colony seems to be quite equal to that which is grown in the islands of Princes and St. Thomas. The general system of agriculture now existing among the natives of this colony seems to be the same as that which has existed for ages past; but the increase of population in the Fanti country seems to have led to the cultivation of much larger tracts of land than those which were formerly occupied for agricultural purposes. The soils of the Gold Coast seem to be much more adapted for the cultivation of the coffee

plant, and other small shrubs, such as spices, &c., than for the sugar cane or rice, for those two latter tropical plants the land seems to be too dry and of too great an altitude. The sugar cane is cultivated by the natives for purely private purposes, but it does not seem likely that the soils would be fit for its successful cultivation on an extensive scale.

The palm tree (Elais Guineensio) grows spontaneously throughout the whole of this part of Western Africa, and is to the natives a fruitful source of wealth. It is probable that much might be done in improving the palm oil trade, by constraining and influencing the natives to cultivate the palm tree.

From the method of cropping adopted by the natives in this colony it is difficult to form even an approximate estimate of the average quantity of land under cultivation. There are few or no regularly cleared farms or plantations, (save for plantains) the ground being never effectively cleared of the roots of the trees or brush-wood; but after one crop the bush is again allowed to grow for several years. The quantity of land generally under cultivation in any one year may be stated as follows: 28,000 acres producing 1,100,000 bushels of maize, 24,000 acres producing yams, 20,000 acres producing cassava, and 15,000 acres producing plantains. These products are of excellent quality. The average price of maize may be quoted at 1*s.* 2*d.* per bushel, and the average prices of yams, cassava, and plantains at one penny per pound. The number of horned cattle in the colony is about 800, of sheep 2,000 and of goats 1,200.

Public Works.

The principal thing on this head, affecting the interests of the colony, is easy communication betwixt towns and villages by good roads. During the course of the past five or six years a little has been done in the colony in this branch of public improvement; but it has been nothing equal to, or at all corresponding with the important claims of such a question. The roads are, generally speaking, exceedingly bad, and they are a great draw-back to the advancement of civilization.

The public market-places in almost all the towns on the Gold Coast, are public nuisances, because they exist without any order or regularity. They stand in sad contrast with the more orderly ones in the large towns on the shore of the Bight of Benin; such as Whydah, Badagry, &c. &c.; both the roads and market-places are worthy of special attention as they regard the interests of these settlements.

The importance of the occupancy of various stations in the colony by small detachments of troops seems to be almost incalculable. There is, perhaps, not a single circumstance of any importance connected with either the domestic polity of the various tribes of natives or with those extraneous civil, com mercial, and religious questions which bear upon the welfare of the colony, which does not owe something to the moral influence produced by this kind of military occupation. Could all those forts which were occupied in various parts of the Gold Coast, &c. &c. in by-gone days be restored to a good state of repair, and again judiciously occupied, the results would, in all probability, be of the highest importance in aiding the advancement of the moral regeneration of this part of Africa.

For an account of the buildings now in progress under the heads of Public Works, I beg to refer your Lordship to the Blue Book, page 37.

Education.

Connected with the general branches of education, *Model Schools* for the instruction and training of boys in the knowledge of various useful mechanical arts, are most important desiderata; at present, there is no employment for educated boys, except as teachers in schools, and clerks in government and mercantile establishments, and hence the results of education, pleasing as they may be, are not so healthy, vigorous, and permanent as they would be if they were associated with various branches of useful mechanical knowledge. These desiderata are greatly worthy of the attention of an enlightened Government. For a lengthened, and I trust a satisfactory report of Schools on the Gold Coast, see Blue Book, page from 87 to 97.

GOLD COAST.

Exchanges, Monies, Weights, and Measures.

Course of Exchange.—Gold dust being the commercial currency of the colony (gold being valued at 4*l.* currency per ounce), and the net value of an ounce of gold dust remitted to England being on an average 3*l.* 12*s.* sterling per ounce, after deducting the charges for freight, insurance, commission, &c., the course of exchange is generally quoted at 111*l.* premium for bills on England at three days' sight; that is to say, a bill upon England for 90*l.* sterling will purchase here 25 ozs. of gold, equal to 100*l.* currency. There being but few British coins in circulation bills granted in exchange for them are negociated at par.

Coins.—Gold dust is the principal currency of the colony, and all large payments are made in it. The coins in circulation are British gold, silver and copper coins; Spanish and South American doubloons, dollars, and half-dollars, and a few five-frank pieces, as per table in the Blue Book, page 101.

The Amount of Coins in Circulation.—All commercial payments being made (with occasional exceptions) in gold dust, the amount of coins in circulation is generally very small. The average amount in circulation during the year 1846 may be stated as follows:—

	£.
British coins	1,500
Spanish and South American coins .	2,000
Coins of other nations . . .	200

Accounts kept in.—Merchants' accounts are kept in pounds, shillings, and pence; accounts betwixt merchants and native traders are kept in ounces, ackies, and takus. The commercial currency of the colony is gold dust, gold being valued at 4*l.* per ounce.

Weights.—The weights in use for every article, save gold and silver, are the avoirdupois weights of England; for gold and silver, troy weights are used.

Measures.—The measures of length, surface, and volume in use, are the imperial standard measures of length, surface, and volume of England. The measures of capacity are the old English wine gallon of 231 cubic inches, with their respective sub-divisions.

Gaols and Prisons.

The gaols at Cape Coast are situated within the walls of the castle, and are sufficiently large to contain three times the number of prisoners that are generally confined in them.

There is great attention paid to the comforts, and especially to the cleanliness of the prisoners, the gaol being so immediately under my own observation, I can at once detect any irregularities should they occur.

The gaols at Dixcove, Annamaboe, and Accra, are also situated within the walls of the fort, and the same attention paid to their comforts as at Cape Coast. In visiting those places I always question the prisoners as to their comforts, and if they have any complaints to make; and I have not in any one instance found occasion to alter the arrangement of the officers in charge of the establishment.

Duties.

Permanent revenue for the Gold Coast is derived from a duty of ½ per cent. *ad valorem* on all imports, and a Government grant of 4000*l.* a-year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The income for the year 1846 amounted to 4876*l.*, the disbursements 4127*l.*, being an increase of 355*l.* over the previous year's receipts, with reference to the Blue Book, page 20.

General Remarks.

The general aspect of the colony is gratifying, the various tribes under the influence of the Government seem to be in a good state of subordination; and the aspect of other contiguous tribes and kingdoms are decidedly friendly.

The moral influence of the Government is producing its legitimate effects; and the Christian religion, on which all the principles of good government are founded, is steadily and surely making its way among the people.

(Signed) H. WINNIETT,
Lieut.-Governor.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

(No. 72.) No. 34.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor The Right Hon. Sir HENRY POTTINGER, Bart., G.C.B,, to Earl GREY.

MY LORD, Graham Town, June 7, 1847.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in paragraph 1, section 4, chapter 7, page 59, of the Compendium of Rules and Regulations for Her Majesty's Colonial service, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1846, with the Colonial Secretary's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY POTTINGER.

The Right Honourable Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 34.

SIR, Colonial Office, Cape Town, June 2, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to state, for your Excellency's information, that the Blue Book for 1846 has been completed, and that a copy, in duplicate, to be transmitted to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been duly certified by me according to the form prescribed.

Your Excellency is no doubt aware that it forms one of the duties of the Governor of the colony to draw up annually a General Report on the state and prospects of the several territories under his administration, which is transmitted, with the Blue Book of the year, for the information of Her Majesty's Government. In the present instance, however, this duty has devolved upon me; as the statistical details which I have had to compile, refer to the progress and resources of the colony during the last year of your predecessor's administration, and, consequently, prior to your assumption of the government: and as no explanatory statements of the kind referred to accompanied the Blue Book from this colony for 1844 and 1845, it has appeared to me desirable, that, in drawing up the Report on the Blue Book for 1846, which I have now the honour to submit. a retrospective view should, at the same time, be taken of the state and prospects of the colony during the two years immediately preceding.

The ordinary or Fixed Revenue of this colony consists of,—

1st. A direct tax in the shape of Transfer dues, at the rate of 4 per cent., on the purchase-monies of all fixed property sold either by public auction or otherwise.

2nd. Indirect taxes, consisting of customs, stamp, and auction duties.

3rd. Post-office revenue, fees charged on public offices, fines, penalties, &c.

4th. Proceeds of the sale of crown-lands, revenue from land granted on perpetual quit-rent, redemption of land-rents, licenses to graze, cut timber, &c.

Of the several sources of Fixed Revenue above enumerated, that derived from customs' dues on imports is by far the most extensive and important; being, at he same time, the surest index of the growing prosperity of the colony, and of the gradual development of its resources.

On an average of the Fixed Revenue for the three years referred to in this report, the customs' dues amounted to 48 per cent. of the whole; and of the Fixed Revenue for each of the three years, taken separately, they amounted to 43, 46, and 54 per cent. respectively; while the whole Fixed Revenue itself was steadily increasing, at an annual average of 4 per cent; the increase during the last year having exceeded 5 per cent.

Next in importance are the transfer, stamp, and auction dues. These, in centesimal parts of the above-mentioned average, amount collectively to 28·75 per

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

cent; but of the Fixed Revenue for 1846, to 26 per cent. only; thus exhibiting a decrease in the triennial average; which is readily accounted for by the check that has been given during the Kafir war, especially in the eastern province, to that class of transactions from which those branches of revenue are derived.

During the administration of General Sir Peregrine Maitland, an attempt was made to relieve the fixed property of the colony from the duty exacted on all transfers, which, though of long standing in the colony, was considered by Sir Peregrine and his Executive Council as questionable in principle, seeing that the fixed capital of the colony had already been assessed, and was likely to continue subject to assessment, for the construction of roads, the erection of bridges, and other charges, for the internal improvements of the colony, generally laid upon the landed interest,

Revenue.

To effect this, and, at the same time, to uphold the Revenue, it was proposed to revise and enlarge the scale of stamp duties and licenses, so as to cause the monied or circulating capital of the colony to bear a more equitable share of the public burdens, when compared with that exacted from the landed proprietors. This, however, was so extensively opposed by the inhabitants generally, that Sir Peregrine withdrew the measure, in deference solely to the opinion thus expressed, and not from any change that had arisen in his own or that of his Executive Council. Besides the transfer duty here referred to, landed property is subject to an additioaal duty of 2 per cent. when sold by public auction, the manner most frequently adopted, from long-established usage in this colony.

There are no other branches of Fixed Revenue of a magnitude deserving particular notice, except the post-office receipts and land rents. By an ordinance passed on the 7th January, 1846, a uniform rate of postage was established throughout the colony on the following scale:—for every letter prepaid, and not exceeding half-an-ounce, 4*d.*; above half-an-ounce, and not exceeding one ounce, 8*d.*; and at a proportionate rate for all weights exceeding one ounce. For all letters not prepaid, the scale of charges to be increased one-half. During the years 1844 and 1845, when the rate of postage was proportioned to the weight and distance, the post-office receipts, on the average, amounted to 8,865*l.*, exclusive of letters on the public service, and those franked by the members of the Legislative Council, on which there was no charge. In 1846, the post-office receipts, on a reduced scale of uniform postage, including the postage of letters on the public service, amounted to 8429*l.*, which though not equal to the revenue previously derived from this source, yet exceeded by 1200*l.* all expenditure incurred in this department, and has more than realised the expectations formed as to the result of this important measure.

It may also be here remarked, that the same cause has had its influence on the post-office revenue, which has occasioned the decrease, already remarked on, in the proceeds of the transfer, stamp, and auction duties. The amount charged for official postage, during the year, came to 1195*l.* The average Annual Revenue derived from the sale of crown lands, land rents, &c., in 1844, 1845, and 1846 amounted to 22,781*l.*, and the actual revenue for 1846, to 22,291*l.*: this apparent decrease is due to a large amount of arrear instalments on the sale of Crown lands having been received in 1844 and 1845, which, if deducted, will leave a higher land revenue for 1846 than either of the preceding years; arising, I may observe, from an increase in the value of the crown lands sold, as also from the sale of Drostdy Houses and other Government buildings.

In respect to the aggregate Fixed Revenue during the three years under review, I find it to amount to 174,180*l*, 178,554*l.*, and 187,547*l.* respectively, and to yield an average, for that period, somewhat exceeding 180,000*l.* This, when compared with the Financial average for 1841, 1842, and 1843, exhibits an increase amounting to 29,000*l.*, and to 24,000*l.* when compared with that of 1838, 1839, and 1840. This, as already mentioned, is to be ascribed to the steady and marked increase of the imports of the colony, on which duties are leviable. The increase in 1846, when compared with the imports of 1845, amounts, in round numbers, to 125,000*l.*; attributable in a great measure, no doubt, to the heavy expenditure incurred by the Kafir war. The total declared value of imports for 1846, was 1,123,061*l.*

Under the head of Incidental Revenue, are included sums refunded, advances and surcharges recovered, interest on sums due to the Government, surveying and inspection monies, guano licenses, &c. Under this head, the average amount of Revenue for 1844, 1845, and 1846, is 36,933*l.*, of which nearly one-

half was the proceeds of fees charged on licenses to load guano, amounting in 1845 to 45,000*l.*, and upwards. The incidental Revenue of 1846, compared with that of 1845, exhibits a decrease of 24,164*l.*, which is accounted for by the large amount received in that year for guano licenses, and by the transfer to the Public Treasury, by the Guardians' Fund, of 10,000*l.*

Another head of Revenue appears in the Blue Book of each of these years, and consists of the repayment of loans formerly received from the "Long Loan," "Storm," and "Agricultural Fund." In 1844, the repayments amounted to 10,751*l.*; in 1845, to 1289*l.*; and in 1846, to 548*l.* As all that is likely to be available from this source is nearly paid up, it will soon disappear from the Blue Book as an item of revenue.

The Gross Revenue for 1844-5, and 6, amounted respectively to 216,487*l.*, 247,317*l.*, and 201,624*l.*, exclusive of any monies raised on debentures, and of the Public Tolls, which, during the last two years, have been transferred to the Central Road Board. In comparing these amounts, the Gross Revenue for 1846 shows a decrease of 14,863*l.* on that of 1844, and of 45,693*l.* on that of 1845. It has, however, already been shown, and is now only referred to in explanation of this apparent decline, that, instead of any such decline having been experienced in the ordinary or fixed Revenue of the colony, during these years, there has been, on the contrary, a steady and marked increase, especially in the Customs' dues, which is the chief source of Revenue. The decrease in both cases is due to the large sums received under the head of Incidental Revenue, in 1844 and 5, in the shape of fees for guano licenses, transfer of monies hitherto administered by the Orphan Chamber, and loans repaid. The average Gross Revenue for the three years in review, amounted to 221,809*l.*

Expenditure.

The Expenditure of the Colonial Government, as detailed in the Blue Books for 1844, 1845, and 6, will be found in abstract, under distinct heads, in the following table, which also exhibits the average for that period, and the corresponding Revenue.

Heads of Expenditure, including Salaries, all Contingencies.	1844.	1845.	1846.	Average on the Three Years.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
1. The Civil Department of Government, exclusive of those of the Revenue.	20,042	21,108	20,140	20,430
2. The Customs, Stamps, Post-Office, and other Revenue Departments.	13,671	14,117	16,852	14,880
3. Judicial Department, comprising the Establishments of the Supreme and Circuit Courts.	11,158	12,579	11,643	11,793
4. Resident Magistrates, Stipendiary Justices, Clerks of the Peace, and Field Cornets.	19,573	18,535	19,553	19,220
5. Police, Gaol, and Convict Establishments, Criminal Prosecutions, &c.	30,847	27,611	28,579	29,012
6. Church and School Establishments, Gratuities in aid of Mission Schools, &c.	14,743	17,276	17,560	16,526
7. Harbour Establishments, erection and repair of Wharfs, &c.	3,841	2,176	3,814	3,277
8. Medical Officers, Hospitals, Infirmaries, and Leper Institutions.	7,261	5,843	4,756	5,953
9. Pensions, Gratuities to Civil and Military Servants, Widows of Clergymen, Field Cornets, &c.	11,753	13,614	11,626	..
10. Expenses of Kafir Police, Resident Agents among the Border Tribes, &c.	4,690	5,087	2,318	4,032
11. Repayment of Loans, Redemption of Government Paper, Interest on Debentures, &c.	60,851	49,453	7,280	39,195
12. Roads, Bridges, Surveys, and Public Works not previously included.	17,020	23,920	27,096	22,679
13. Expended on account of the Natal Government.	1,212	1,293	1,414	1,307
14. Expended on Immigration	500	285	5,885	2,223
15. Advances for the Public Service, including remittances to England.	4,918	6,739	7,488	6,382
16. Miscellaneous Disbursements	1,381	4,037	3,490	2,969
Total Expenditure . . . . . £	223,461	223,673	189,494	212,209
Total Revenue . . . . . £	229,603	247,370	201,625	226,199
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure . £	6,142	23,697	12,131	13,990

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Referring to the several heads under which the disbursements from the Public Treasury are arranged, the first item that requires explanation is, the gradual enlargement of the aggregate expenditure on account of the Revenue Department—amounting, in the three years under review, to 3181*l.* This increase is owing in part to a necessary augmentation in the Fixed and Supplementary Establishments of the Customs' Department, in consequence of the great increase of business in that branch of the Revenue. But this increase of expenditure is chiefly due to the arrangements made in 1846 for opening an additional number of post-offices in the interior of the colony, and for running the mail twice a week, instead of once, as formerly, between Cape Town and the eastern frontier; which increased the contingent expenditure of that department to an amount somewhat exceeding 3000*l.*

The table exhibits a decrease of expenditure in 1845, when compared with 1844, under the head Police, Gaols, and Convict Establishments, to the amount of 3236*l.*; and an increase in 1846 over 1845 of 968*l.*, both of which are entirely casual, and owing to a change in the contingent expenditure incurred on account of criminal prosecutions, and the clothing and maintenance of convicts and prisoners, which must obviously vary, not only with the number in each year of prosecutions and convictions, but also with the prices at which food and clothing are supplied. No increase of any consequence has taken place in the fixed expenditure of any department under this head.

The expenditure on account of Churches and Schools has been increased, during the period referred to, to nearly 3000*l.* The increase in both cases is due to an enlargement of the establishments. Within that period, several new churches, in connexion both with the English and Dutch Reformed Churches, have been placed on the Ecclesiastical Establishment; while in the Departments of Public Education, an addition has been made to the Grant annually voted in support of the South African College. New schools have been opened in several of the agricultural districts of the colony, and additional gratuities made in support of Mission Schools among the coloured population.

A decrease of 2505*l.* is shewn under the head Medical Officers, Hospitals, Infirmaries, and Leper Institutions. On the 1st January, 1845, in consequence chiefly of the removal of the convicts from the district prisons to the road stations opened in the course of the preceding year, a new arrangement was made for remunerating medical practitioners for services required on the public account. By this arrangement, a reduction was effected, in 1845, to the amount of 1000*l.* in the medical establishment. From reductions made in the expenses incurred on account of Somerset Hospital, and from the establishment of a General Infirmary, in 1846, on Robbin Island, to which were removed confined lunatics, lepers, and chronic sick, which enabled the Government to break up their Leper Institution in the country, and incorporate the Pauper Establishment in Cape Town with the Somerset Hospital, a further reduction was effected under this head to an amount which fully accounts for the decrease exhibited in the table.

A large reduction has taken place in the disbursements arising from our relations with the Kafirs and other border tribes. Up to the month of April, 1846, the expenditure on account of Kafir police, gratutuities to chiefs, and resident agents among the border tribes, averaged annually 4800*l.* From the commencement of the present war, or soon after, a universal combination against the colony extended throughout Kafirland among all tribes, which necessarily put an end to all treaties then existing between the Government and the several Kafir chiefs, and, consequently, all arrangements relative to a police force, resident agents, &c., entered into with the chiefs individually, or stipulated for by treaty. This accounts for the large reduction in the expenditure under this head which appears in the Blue Book for 1846.

In 1844, the payments made in liquidation of loans contracted with the Home Government and East India Company, and the redemption of Government paper, amounted to 60,000*l.* and upwards; in 1845, they came short of 50,000*l*; and in 1846, they were reduced to nearly 7000*l.* This rapid decrease in the appropriation of its funds to the redemption of its liabilities was not, however, owing to any want of means on the part of the Government, or a desire to apply them to other purposes; but simply to the fact, that with the exception of Government notes to the amount of 2,124*l.* which have not been presented, though repeatedly called for during the last eight years, the public

debt, which in 1841 amounted to upwards of a quarter of a million sterling, has been entirely liquidated.

It will be observed from the above Table, that an increase to the amount of 15,000*l.* has taken place in the appropriation of public money to the construction of roads and bridges, the effecting of surveys, and the erection and repairs of buildings for the civil service. During the three years ending with 1846, there was voted by the Legislative Council in aggregate, for the construction of the new line of main road between Cape Town and the eastern frontier, and for the erection of bridges thereon, exclusive of the Central Road Board's Establishment and Convict Department, the sum of 28,605*l.*, including these two items; the aggregate amount voted was 60,565*l.* in even pounds, which appears in the appropriation ordinances for the years referred to in grants of 12,479*l.*, 21,665*l.*, and 26,421*l.* respectively; deducting from these the expenses of the Central Road Board, and Convict Establishment, the sums expended on public roads and bridges will be found to be 5885*l.*, 10,665*l.*, and 15,410*l.*; to which may be added the net proceeds of land assessments and tolls, received by the Board, which was 12,953*l.*, 13,845*l.*, 6229*l.*: total 33,027*l.*

The expense of surveys, or rather, in most instances, of re-surveys, on account of the errors of incompetent surveyors, previous to the appointment of the present Surveyor-General, amounted in the three years ending with 1846 to 2,446*l.*, giving an average of 815*l.* for each year. The expenditure incurred under the head of Public Buildings, with the exception of new buildings for the accommodation of the General Infirmary on Robbin Island, is confined to the repairs of existing buildings.

The expenditure on account of the Provincial Government of Natal is temporary, the revenue of that district being chargeable with its repayment.

The principal expenditure under the head of Immigration occurred in 1846, when, under the arrangements proposed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, at the instance of the Land and Emigration Agent, three vessels were chartered for the conveyance of immigrants to this colony. In these vessels there arrived 556 adults; males 258, females 143, and 155 children. For these were paid 5884*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, being on on average 12*l.* 12*s.* for each statute adult. Provision had been made, and arrangements entered into for a more extensive immigration; but the apprehensions entertained among the labouring classes in England as to the danger the colony is exposed to from the Kafir war has for a time put a stop to this important expenditure.

In regard to the item of Advances for the Public Service, it may be briefly remarked, that there is no actual or unaccounted expenditure in this form. All persons to whom advances are made are called upon to render a specified account of the expenditure actually incurred, for which warrants are subsequently issued, and the items made to appear in the public accounts, under the proper heads.

Having entered as fully as appears necessary into the details of the expenditure during the years embraced in the Table referred to, it may not be improper to close these explanatory remarks with a statement in centesimal proportions of the average expenditure, during the three years, in support of the respective branches of the Goverment.

For the Civil Departments of the Government, including those maintained for the collection of the Public Revenue, the average expenditure, in centesimal proportions of the average gross expenditure, was 16·64 per cent. for the administration of justice and the detection and punishment of crime, 28·29 per cent.; for religious and secular instruction, 7·79 per cent.; for medical officers, hospitals, paupers, lunatics, and lepers, 2·8 per cent.; for harbour establishments, the construction of roads and bridges, and other public improvements, including immigration, 13·28; for the redemption of the public debt, 18·42 per cent.; expenditure on account of our relations with the border tribes, 1·9 per cent.; in pensions and gratuities for public service, 5·8 per cent.; other expenditures, including advances for the public service, 5.57.

Councils legislative.

A Legislative Council has existed in this colony since the appointment of Sir Benjamin D'Urban to its government in 1835. The constitution, powers, and functions of this body are established and defined by the Commissions and Royal Instructions issued from time to time by the respective Governors. At present this Council consists of not less than 10 nor more than 12 members, exclusive of the Governor, who is, by virtue of his office, the President. Of these six are persons holding offices under the Crown, and other six nominated

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

by the Governor and confirmed by the Crown. With the advice and consent of this Council, the Governor is vested with full powers to enact laws for the order, peace, and good government of the settlement, with the following reservation:—1st. That the Crown retains for itself the right of disallowing any such laws, and to make and establish fromtime to time, with the advice and consent of Parliament, or with the advice of the Privy Council, all such laws as may appear necessary for the order, peace, and good government of the settlement.

2nd. That no law can be proposed or passed touching the Constitution, proceedings, numbers, or the election of any Member of Council, or in relation to any matters contained or referred to in the Governor's Commission and the Royal Instructions, and repugnant to the same, or to any Act of Parliament or Order in Council extending to or in force within the settlement.

3rd. That no enactment shall be proposed or assented to by the Council whereby any person may be hindered from worshipping Almighty God in a peaceable and orderly manner, and according to the dictates of his own conscience.

4th. That it is not competent for this Council to propose or assent to any law for the levying of any new rate or duty, or whereby the revenue may be impaired, without the previons consent or authority of the Crown.

5th. Nor is it competent for the Council to pass any law, without the previous authority of the Crown, for the issue of any bills of credit, debentures, or other negotiable securities on the credit of the colonial revenue, or for declaring any paper currency, or any coin, save the legal coin of the realm, to be a legal tender in the settlement.

6th. No law shall be proposed or passed, without the previous sanction or authority of the Crown, whereby persons, not of European birth or descent, shall be made subject to disabilities or restrictions from which others, being European or of European descent, are exempt.

7th. Neither can any law be passed, without such previous authority, for the naturalization of aliens, or for sustaining their titles to fixed property previously required, unless a clause be inserted suspending the operation of the law until the pleasure of the Crown is known.

The royal instructions secure to every member of the Council freedom of debate in all affairs of public concern, and the right of recording their reasons for dissent against any act or measure that may have passed the Council, and the privilege of introducing any law, reserving, however, to the Governor a veto in all cases in which he may not consider it expedient that such a law should be enacted. The estimates of the public expenditure are annually laid before the Council, and an appropriation Ordinance passed, providing for the respective branches of the public revenue.

Executive.

The Governor's Commission and the Royal Instructions also provide for an Executive Council, the members of which are, the senior officer in command of the forces, the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer-General, the Attorney-General, and the principal officer of customs; all of whom are also members of the Legislative Council. It belongs to this Council to advise the Governor in all matters relating to the executive functions of his office, and the Governor is required to consult with his Council in all cases where the matters to be decided are not too unimportant to require their advice, or too urgent to admit of their being deferred in order to obtain it, without injury to the public interest; such cases of urgency, however, are to be subsequently communicated to the Council, with the Governor's procedure thereon. It is competent for the Governor to act in opposition to the advice of the Executive Council, but he is required to report his reasons for the course he adopts, by the first convenient opportunity, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Legislative

In 1844, eighteen Ordinances were enacted by the Legislative Council, all of which were confirmed by the Queen, with the exception of Ordinance, No. 17, which provided for the removal of some doubts in regard to certain Ordinances which had been promulgated in the colony, and were otherwise removed, by an Order of the Queen in Council. In the most important of these enactments were embodied the following provisions:—for amending the law respecting municipal institutions; the rights of execution creditors; the regulation of sales by auction; to facilitate the recovery of the land rents due to the Crown; to effect the registration of subdivisions of the locations granted to the heads of settlers in 1820; for the discipline and safe custody of convicts sent to road stations; and for the exemption of all vessels arriving in the colony from port dues.

In 1845, nineteen Ordinances were passed, five of which were exclusively applicable to the district of Natal, and one which was disallowed was re-enacted the same year in an amended form. The principal enactments provided for—1st, a visiting magistrates' court at each of the convict road-stations; 2nd, the substitution of declarations for oaths, in certain cases, and the suppression of extra-judicial oaths; 3rd, the punishment for concealing the birth of children; 4th, the amending the law relating to the validity of certain testamentary writings.

In 1846, the number of Ordinances enacted by the Legislative Council amounted to 34, fifteen of which had reference exclusively to the district of Natal. In the Ordinances enacted for this settlement, the following were the matters of chief import:—1st, the establishment of a uniform rate of postage, irrespective of distance, and regulated solely by weight; 2nd, the improvement of the law of evidence; 3rd, the amendment of the law respectiong conventional hypothecations; 4th, an enlarged scale of wharfage dues in Table Bay, with a view to the construction of a breakwater, and other improvements of the harbour; 5th, to facilitate loans, on the security of shares in joint stock companies.

In connexion with, and forming a part of, the legislative enactments of the three years referred to, are several Orders of the Queen in Council, which chiefly refer to commercial relations entered into with other countries. One, however, relates solely to this colony, and goes to enforce the Ordinance, No. 1, 1841, which amends and consolidates the law respecting the rights and duties of masters, servants, and apprentices. This Ordinance had been previously confirmed, but for a limited period, which expired in 1846.

The judicial institutions of the colony consist of a Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, held twice a-year in the chief district towns by the Judges of the Supreme Court, and inferior Courts, held by stipendiary magistrates resident in the several judicial districts into which the colony is divided.

The Supreme Court, which was first instituted by a Royal Charter of Justice in 1828, consists of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. Their powers, constitution, and jurisdiction, are analogous to those of the Courts of Record at Westminster, with the exception, that trial by jury in civil cases has not yet been established, and that all crimes and offences are prosecuted by a public officer, at the instance of the Crown.

The Supreme Court sits four times a-year in Cape Town, for the trial of civil cases, where criminal sessions are also held four times a-year by one of the judges in rotation. There is also a Vice-Admiralty Court, which is held as often as cases occur requiring its decision. In this Court, the Chief Justice also presides.

The Circuit Courts are also held by the judges in rotation in the chief towns twice a-year. These courts have concurrent jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, with the Supreme Court. The magistrates' courts are held twice a-week in the district towns in which the several magistrates reside. The proceedings in these courts are entirely summary. The powers of the magistrates are limited to the trial of civil cases not exceeding 10*l.* in value, and in criminal offences, to the infliction of punishments not exceeding one month's imprisonment with hard labour, or 75 lashes.

On the 31st March, 1845, a committee of the Legislative Council was appointed, at the instance of the Governor, to inquire into the present system of administering justice throughout the colony. On the results of this inquiry very different opinions were held; not only by the members of the committee, but also by those of the Executive Council, which induced the Governor to postpone all legislative proceedings on the matter, until the reports of the two sections of the committee, and the changes they had respectively recommended, had been brought under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

It would be irrelevant to enter here in detail into the results of this inquiry but as Her Majesty's Government has decided on some of the most important points in the scheme recommended by that section of the committee which formed a majority, and, as the principles involved in this decision form the basis upon which future improvements will be introduced into the judicial system of the colony, it may not be improper to give the following brief outline of their scheme, together with the views thereon entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

1st. The 18 judicial districts, of which the colony now consists, are to be formed into the 30 districts suggested in Annexure A. to the report, and speci-

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

fied in Annexure, No. 1, to the letter to which this is appended; each district consisting of a specified number of entire field-cornetcies or wards.

2nd. There shall be to each judicial district a Resident Magistrate, who, in addition to the Courts held at the seat of Magistracy, as at present, shall hold Courts at such other points within his district as shall from time to time appear eligible to the Executive Government.

3rd. The jurisdiction at present vested in Resident Magistrates shall be increased in civil cases to 30*l.*, and in criminal cases to three months' imprisonment, with or without hard labour: but their power to inflict corporal punishment shall be limited to 36 lashes.

4th. Though not proposed by Mr. Montagu in council, the following suggestion is submitted. The increase of civil jurisdiction from 10*l.* to 30*l.*, to be held concurrently by the Court of the Resident Magistrate and that of the Civil Judge, referred to in another part of this outline.

5th. To each judicial district there shall be attached an organised Police, for the more efficient prevention and suppression of crime, which shall be placed under the control and direction of the Resident Magistrate of the district.

6th. The 30 judicial districts to be thrown into the five judicial circles enumerated in Annexure A. to the Report of the Committee, one of which, namely, the Cape Circle, to be placed under the immediate jurisdiction of a Court to be held by the Chief Justice in Cape Town; the other four under Courts to be held in each respectively by the two Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court and two additional judges to be appointed. The Court of the Chief Justice shall be held once every month in Cape Town, both for civil and criminal business, and, in like manner, the head courts of the other four circles should be held once every month at Worcester, George, Graham's Town, and Graff Reinet, respectively, with Sessions of Circuit either quarterly or half-yearly in each judicial district, as specified in Annexure A. to the Report of the Committee.

7th. The Circle Court, whether in Session at the residence of the Circle Judge, or in any one of its judicial districts, shall, within its own bounds, exercise the same jurisdiction, power, and authority as is vested in the Supreme Court of the Colony. In respect to the Court held by the Chief Justice in Cape Town, of which no Session in Circuit is required, it is proposed, that in addition to its concurrent jurisdiction with the Supreme Court within the bounds of the Cape Circle, it shall, as it respects the other Circles, stand in the same relation to the Supreme Court as the Court of Lord Ordinary in Scotland does to the Court of Session, and thus have concurrent jurisdiction in each with the Supreme Court.

8th. It shall belong to the five Circle Judges, each within the bounds of his jurisdiction, to exercise a supervisional authority in all matters affecting the judicial administration of his circle. In addition, therefore, to the powers now vested in the Circuit Magistrates, it is proposed that monthly returns, signed by the gaoler, and countersigned by the resident magistrate, shall be made from each Judicial District to the Circle Judge, of all persons that are in custody, or have been, whether convicted, committed for trial, apprehended on criminal information, or placed in custody to secure their evidence at trial, or on preliminary examination. This Return will also state how the prisoners are classified in the day time, and during night, not only in respect to sex, but also in regard to the several heads above-mentioned. And the Judge shall be vested with full power to direct a proper classification of the prisoners, and to remedy, as far as may be, any unnecessary evil that may appear on the face of the Return. To this should be affixed a Report of the dates on which the gaol was inspected by the Visiting Magistrate. In order to remedy the serious evils of long previous imprisonment, both to accused parties and witnesses, it is proposed that the resident magistrate shall, in his capacity as Commissioner of the Circle Court, report monthly to the Circle Judge, all persons committed to gaol, or otherwise placed in custody, or under personal restraint, in consequence of not finding bail, or bail having been refused; and it will be the duty of the Circle Judge at once to review the proceedings of the resident magistrate in this respect, and if necessary, to order the release of the parties or witnesses, or to accept of bail And it is further proposed to empower the Judge, either on the petition of the prisoner, or otherwise, to serve notice on the public prosecutor of the circle, within a given time from the date of commitment, that if the accused party be not brought to trial within the space of 100 days from that date, either at the Circuit Court of the Circle, he will order his discharge from gaol; and it shall not be competent for any other than the Circle Judge

to authorize his re-apprehension for the same offence, and that only when the public prosecutor shows that he is prepared to proceed to trial at the first sitting of the Circle Court.

9th. The Supreme Court of the colony shall continue to exercise the jurisdiction, power and authority, now vested therein by charter. It shall sit in session once every four months for the despatch of business, at which sessions any three of the five Judges shall form a quorum. And in addition to the original and appellate jurisdiction which it now exercises, it shall belong to this court to hear and decide on all new trial motions connected with the issues of civil juries referred to in the next paragraph of this outline.

10th. It forms a prominent part of the scheme recommended, that trial by jury as to issues of fact in civil cases, shall be introduced into all courts where trial by jury in criminal cases is now practised. In no case, however, shall the intervention of a jury be absolute, and it shall rest with either party to apply, or not, either for a common or special jury, as it may best suit his interests. In all cases brought before a civil jury, in which the aggrieved party seeks for redress by pecuniary reparation, it shall belong to the jury to assess the damages. The duties of common juror to be performed by those jurors who have been summoned to attend the criminal sessions.

11th. The Grand Jury system having been hitherto limited to Cape Town, it is proposed, and in this the committee were unanimous, that it be abolished as superfluous, if not anomalous, when crime is prosecuted at the instance and expense of the Crown, under the counsel and instructions of a responsible public prosecutor for the whole colony.

12th. It is proposed that the present office of Clerk of the Peace be also abolished, and a public prosecutor, to be designated Crown Clerk, appointed to each of the four inland circles, who shall act on the authority, and under the directions of Her Majesty's Attorney-General for the colony. This officer will also act as Registrar and Master of the Court of his Circle.

13th. To each of the four inland Circles will be attached a Deputy Sheriff, on a fixed salary, who shall give security to the sheriff of the colony, as that officer now does to the Government. All fees hitherto received in the sheriff's department to be paid into the treasury and accounted for with the other branches of colonial Revenue. Execution of process in either of the circles may be made returnable either at the office of the deputy sheriff of the circle, or of that of the high sheriff of the colony.

14th. The office of messenger to the magistrates' courts to be abolished, and his duties to be performed by the head of the police of each resident magistrate's district.

To the scheme of dividing the colony into five judicial circles, each having its resident judge, who were at the same time to be members of the supreme court, Her Majesty's Secretary of State objects, as not only being new and experimental, but involving a sacrifice of important advantages which are secured by the maintenance at the capital, of a supreme court as at presnt constituted, and more especially that of preventing the growth of conflicting systems of law and judicial practice in adjacent districts.

The maintenance of a responsible public prosecutor, with an adequate number of deputies in the interior districts, the Secretary of State considers indispensable to the due administration of the penal law. He is furtner of opinion that an additional number of resident magistrates is equally indispensable; and to meet the increased expenditure which such a measure must entail on the colony, he is prepared to sanction any retrenchment in the list of the judicial establishment, which is not essential to the protection of the Queen's subjects in their persons, property, and reputation.

On the subject of trial by jury in civil cases, the Secretary of State thinks, that if public opinion demanded this change, it should first be introduced into the supreme court in Cape Town, and there as an experiment only, until the result shall have been carefully observed, when it might then be decided whether or not it should form a part of the judicial system of the colony.

In regard to the compulsory impressment of transport service for the conveyance of the judges on circuit, the Secretary of State observes that "this is a proceeding utterly indefensible." And he directs that the admistration of justice must not in future be accompanied by so flagrant a violation of one of the first principles of justice.

The necessity for more frequent gaol deliveries in the colony, for the relief of

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

accused persons, as also of witnesses committed merely to insure their appearance at trial, is acknowledged by Her Majesty's Government to be beyond dispute: and for this object it is suggested that advocates might be associated with the judges as junior commissioners, and be executing their commissions while the judges were resident in Cape Town. The imprisonment of witnesses simply because they cannot find bail, is considered oppressive and absurd.

Acting on the instructions and principles laid down by Her Majesty's Secretary of State, measures will be shortly taken by the Government for establishing eight additional magistracies in the more extensive Districts in the interior. The compulsory impressment of transport service for the conveyance of the Circuit Judges, has also been abolished, and transport in its stead secured by contract. Other measures are also under consideration with a view to carry out, so far as practicable, the instructions of Her Majesty's Government in respect to the judicial administration of the colony.

Ecclesiastical and School Establishment.

Strictly speaking there is no Established Church in this colony. Provision, however, is annually made by vote of the Legislative Council for the support of the ministers in charge of the several congregations belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church, and for the chaplains of the English Episcopalian Church. Grants are also voted annually towards the support of the Scottish and Lutheran Churches in Cape Town, the Wesleyan Church at Salem, in Albany, and the Roman Catholic Church, in Cape Town and Graham's Town. The votes in 1846 in behalf of these several communities, were as follows:—

In support of 33 ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church, stationed in various districts of the colony, 7000*l.*; of 12 chaplains belonging to the Church of England, 2945*l.*; the Scotch and Lutheran Churches in Cape Town, 203*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; the Wesleyan Church, Salem, 150*l.*; and the Roman Catholic Church in Cape Town and Graham's Town, 300*l.* In the Dutch and English Churches the Government reserves the right of appointment to all vacancies.

Beyond this the Government claims no interference with the internal economy and order of the Dutch Reformed Church, which is exclusively ruled by its own judicatories. With respect to the English Church, the governor is, in the absence of a bishop, *ex-officio* the ordinary.

In regard to church buildings, parsonages, and other expenses, they are defrayed by church fees, pew-rents, and the voluntary contributions of the respective congregations, with the exception of two districts, in which a church tax of small amount on quit-rent and loan-places continues to be received by the Dutch Church. Returns have been received for 1846, from 26 congregations belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church, of the proceeds of such fees and contributions; from which it appears that there has been thus raised in aggregate, during the year, in these congregations, for the erection and repair of churches and parsonages, the support of the poor, and the maintenance of a fund for the widows of clergymen, the sum of 14,582*l.*

In consequence of the form hitherto employed in framing the Ecclesiastical Return being inapplicable to this colony, where, with the exception of the Dutch Reformed Church, there is no religious community that has parochial limits; neither are there, strictly speaking, vicarages, livings, or dissenting congregations; an amended form has been adopted for the Return of 1846, which embraces every Christian congregation, without distinction, within the colony, and at the same time affords precise information on the following heads:—

1st, The aggregate number of persons attending or in connexion with the several congregations, distinguishing Europeans or white persons from those of colour.

2nd, The number of persons for which the several church buildings afford accommodation, and the average attendance.

3rd, The number receiving instruction in Sunday and evening schools connected with each congregation.

4th, The number of baptisms and marriages that have been registered in each congregation.

By this form of return, a more correct estimate than otherwise could have been made may be formed of the extent to which religious instruction and Christian privileges have been provided, both for the white and coloured inhabitants of this extensive settlement, whether with the aid of Government, the resources of missionary societies instituted for the extension of Christianity among the heathen, or from the voluntary contributions of congregations in support of their own institutions.

The results of this Return appear in the following Abstract:—

ABSTRACT of the ECCLESIASTICAL RETURN from the EASTERN and WESTERN PROVINCES for 1846, distinguishing the Entries belonging to each Province by its Initial.

The Religious Denominations to which the Congregations respectively belong.		No. of Congregations.	Aggregate number of Persons in connexion with the several Congregations.			No. of Persons the Churches and Chapels can contain.	Average No. of Attendants on Public Worship.	No. instructed in Sunday and Evening Schools.	Number in connexion with the several Congregations.		Aggregate return for the two Provinces.				
											Persons in connexion with the several Congregations.			Average Attendance.	No. taught in Sunday and Evening Schools.
			White.	Coloured.	Total.				Baptisms.	Marriages.	White.	Coloured.	Total.		
English Episcopalian. .	W.	6	5,713	587	6,300	2,620	2,070	530	329	105	7,543	587	8,130	2,977	864
	E.	7	1,830	Nil.	1,830	1,980	907	334	104	26					
Dutch Reformed . . .	W.	23	40,790	5,358	46,148	14,650	7,768	2,299	2,063	406	51,848	6,738	58,586	10,578	3,014
	E.	9	11,058	1,380	12,438	6,900	2,810	715	1,367	277					
Other Presbyterians . .	W.	7	515	3,720	4,235	2,450	1,926	1,795	118	37	745	3,720	4,465	1,976	1,795
	E.	1	230	Nil.	230	Nil.	50	Nil.	3	Nil.					
Roman Catholic . . .	W.	2	2,250	150	2,400	550	230	115	43	5	3,500	150	3,650	880	265
	E.	2	1,250	Nil.	1,250	1,200	650	150	26	1					
Wesleyan	W.	9	1,195	3,455	4,650	2,650	1,810	1,168	107	38	4,275	6,745	11,020	5,370	3,299
	E.	12	3,080	3,290	6,370	5,110	3,560	2,131	195	57					
Independent	W.	9	297	4,203	4,500	2,550	2,010	1,038	138	65	1,202	11,803	13,005	5,360	3,377
	E.	14	905	7,600	8,505	5,050	3,350	2,339	123	51					
Moravian	W.	3	19	5,541	5,560	2,600	1,775	290	223	17	31	6,191	6,222	2,055	440
	E.	2	12	650	662	500	280	150	15	8					
Lutheran	W.	19	1,166	5,814	6,980	5,450	3,010	1,060	282	96	1,166	5,814	6,980	3,010	1,060
	E.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.					
											70,310	41,748	112,058	32,206	14,134

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

From this Abstract it appears that Returns have been received for 1846 from 115 congregations belonging to the two provinces; of these 32 belong to the Dutch Reformed Church, 13 to the English Episcopalian, 8 to various Presbyterian denominations, 4 to the Roman Catholic Church, 21 to the Wesleyan church, 23 Independents, 5 Moravian, and 9 Lutheran. In connexion with the above congregations there were, in the aggregate, 70,310 white persons and 41,748 coloured, yielding a total of 112,058, which constitutes, on a rough estimate, three-fifths of the population of the colony.

The Abstract also shows that the extent of church accommodation now furnished by all Christian denominations is capable of providing for an attendance amounting to 54,160 persons, and that the average attendance is reckoned at 32,206, thus occupying about five-ninths of the whole estimated accommodation.

It further appears that every denomination has, to a greater or less extent, provided, by Sunday and evening schools, for the religious instruction of the young and of such as have grown up to mature age in heathenism or in entire ignorance of the principles of Christianity. The number taught in such schools during the year amounted to 14,134. It is not known what proportion of these were white, and what persons of colour; but it may with safety be asserted that upwards of two-thirds of the whole number were coloured persons.

In order to show the relative extent to which the several denominations enumerated in the Abstract, embrace the colonial population under the distinction of *white* and *coloured*, it is thus expressed in centesimal proportions, estimating the whole population at 185,000, of whom 80,580 are white and 104,420 coloured.

The proportion per cent. of the white and coloured population of the colony, in connexion with the—

	White.	Coloured.
English Church, is . . .	9·36	·55
Dutch Reformed . . .	63·12	6·45
Presbyterians	·92	3·58
Roman Catholic	4·34	·14
Wesleyan	5·31	6·46
Independent	1·49	11·30
Moravian	·04	5·93
Lutheran	1·45	5·56

It ought to be observed that this Return is not to be regarded with any very high degree of confidence. Much trouble has been taken to rectify such Returns as appeared to be erroneously made from a misconception of the wording of the Return; but still from the unsettled state of a large portion of the eastern province, and from the extensive movements that have taken place in consequence of the war, among all classes of the people, the results of the Return are only to be regarded as a rough approximation to the truth.

Education.

It is unnecessary here to enter into any details relating to the educational establishment of the colony, as the Report of the Superintendent General of Education which accompanies the appropriation ordinance for next year will afford more ample and precise information as to the working and results of the system than any summary that could be embodied in this review. As the present system, however, was introduced with a view to the extension and improvement of education among all classes, without respect to any distinctions arising from race, colour, or religion, it seems proper that some reference should be made to the principles on which the system is based, and the degree of success which has attended this measure.

In 1839 a Government Minute was published, intimating the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to an improved system of education, to be placed under the responsible supervision of a General Superintendent, aided by Local School Commissions, selected by the Government from among the inhabitants residing at the respective school stations. The schools to be established under this system were to consist of first class or principal schools, to be opened at the chief towns of the several divisions; and second class, or elementary schools, which were to provide instruction in the common branches at the minor stations, and at such localities among the agricultural inhabitants of the country districts as could furnish a sufficient number of pupils to justify the expense.

The elementary course of the first class schools, which was free and open to all classes of the community, consisted of,

1. Reading, writing, and a competent knowledge of the theory of arithmetic, and its practical applications.

2. A grammatical knowledge of the English language (communicated through the medium of the Dutch at those stations where that was the vernacular tongue) and the elements of English composition.

3. Descriptive geography, the outlines of general history and chronology.

4. The elements of linear drawing and perspective.

5. The rudiments of natural history and physical science, as illustrated and explained in the text-books of Chambers's Educational Course.

6. Religious instruction. This was to be confined to a knowledge of the Bible, which was to be daily perused, during the first morning hour of meeting, when the school would be thrown into the following divisions, wholly irrespective of any other classification:—

First division to consist of those that cannot read, who are to be occupied in repeating texts of Scripture simultaneously, selected by the master, in order to be committed to memory.

Second division to consist of those that read imperfectly, who will be occupied in reading, under a monitor or usher, the parables and miracles of our Saviour.

Third class to consist of those that can read correctly and with ease. They will constitute a Bible class, and will be engaged under the master in a full course of Scripture reading, illustrated, when necessary, by a reference to the geography, natural history, customs and habits of the countries and people spoken of in Scripture.

7. It is the standing rule of every school, that all pupils attend during the hour for religious instruction, unless absence be requested in writing on conscientious scruples by parents or guardians.

To this course of elementary instruction was to be added, in the first class schools, instruction in what are usually called the higher branches, viz. Latin, Greek, and French—logarithmic arithmetic—algebra, plane and solid geometry, physical and mathematical geography—the first principles of surveying, navigation, and practical astronomy. For any of these branches a moderate fee of 1*l.* per quarter is to be charged for the benefit of the teacher.

In order to afford sufficient encouragement to successful and qualified teachers, a graduated scale of fixed salary was adopted, which was proportioned to the extent of population at the several school stations; the minimum being fixed at 100*l.*, and rising successively to 130*l.*, 150*l.*, and 200*l.*; promotion to the higher stations to be granted solely on the comparative merits and success of the teachers on the Establishment; and every new teacher, in the first instance, to be appointed to a minor station.

In addition to the schools on the Establishment, others were incorporated or connected with the system in 1841 by means of annual grants voted for their support. These schools belonged chiefly to missionary institutions formed for the instruction of the coloured population; and the support allowed them was granted on the following conditions:—

1st. Every such school, if in Cape Town, shall occupy a district not otherwise provided for; or if in the county, such a locality or station as his Excellency the Governor shall approve.

2nd. The aid afforded shall be in the shape of a grant, renewable annually, should the school be conducted to the satisfaction of the Superintendent-General of Education, and should the necessary funds be voted for that purpose.

3rd. The Government Grant shall be exclusively appropriated to the support of the teacher or teachers, as the case may be.

4th. The Superintendent-General of Education shall have the right to inspect all schools receiving aid, and to call for such returns as will enable him to ascertain to what extent, and with what efficiency, the schools provide for the education of the district in which they are placed.

5th. The schools shall be accessible to all, and the religious instruction given to the pupils during the ordinary school-hours shall be confined to the Scriptures. This condition has no reference to the Sunday and evening schools that

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

may be opened in the several districts in connexion with the schools receiving aid.

6th. The English language shall form a branch of instruction in all schools thus aided, and, where practicable, it shall be used as the colloquial language of the school.

7th. Though the first object of such schools must be the religious education of the poor, yet such subjects of a secular character as are laid down in the elementary course of the Government schools shall be gradually introduced, to a greater or less extent, as circumstances may admit.

To these were subsequently added elementary schools among the agricultural inhabitants (chiefly Boers) of the country districts; to these a fixed salary was attached, for a limited period, upon the conditions stipulated in a Government Minute, dated 14 September, 1843, the principles of which are the following:—

1st. That on his Excellency the Governor approving of the station, and consenting to attach a fixed allowance of 30*l.* per annum to the office of the teacher, the residents of the district in which the school is to be opened engage to erect or provide, and to keep in repair, the requisite buildings, viz., a residence for the teacher and a school-room.

2nd. That those residents who have aided in providing the buildings alluded to in the preceding article, and who engage to keep them in a state of repair, shall elect from among themselves a School Committee, who shall also be the trustees of the buildings.

3rd. That the parents engage to pay a quarterly fee of not less than 5*s.* for each child attending the school (the exact amount in each case to be fixed by the Committee), so that, assuming the average attendance at between 30 and 40 pupils, the income of the teacher may be considered equal to 70*l.* per annum, and a free residence.

4th. That the school, though subject to the inspection of the Superintendent-General of Education, who will also require half-yearly returns of attendance, progress, &c., will be regarded by the Government as being solely under the management and control of the Committee elected by the resident inhabitants.

5th. That the school be open to all who choose to avail themselves of the privilege in the terms proposed; and that, in consideration of the Government allowance, his Excellency be entitled to grant free admission to the children of such parents as the Superintending Committee shall certify to be unable to pay the fees required, provided the number thus admitted do not exceed at any time five.

6th. That the teacher shall be chosen by the School Committee alluded to in Article 2nd; and that the Committee, on moving the Governor to confirm the appointment, shall forward to this office the certificate of the clergyman of the district, or of the minister with whom the body of the inhabitants are connected, that the individual is a fit person and qualified to undertake the management of an elementary school.

7th. That at all stations where the Dutch language prevails, English shall also be taught, and that as soon as practicable, it shall be made the language of intercourse between the master and pupils at a certain hour each day, and in connexion with some branch of instruction.

8th. That during the ordinary school hours the Scriptures be alone used in giving religious instruction, and that, for this purpose, the reading of the Scriptures form one of the daily exercises of the school.

9th. That the course of secular instruction adopted in the schools of the Establishment be gradually introduced to a greater or less extent, as circumstances shall admit.

10th. That the district clergyman be a visitor of the school on behalf of the Government, as also any member of the local School Commission of the division to which the proposed school district belongs.

11th. That the Government allowance, and the engagement with the teacher, be for a period of three years, to commence with the opening of the school, but to be renewed should it be found that the school has been well attended and efficiently conducted.

On the adoption of the system which was recommended for the consideration of Government, by Sir John Herschel, a body of teachers, selected chiefly from the Scotch Universities, was brought out in 1840 and 1841 at the public expense. They were put in charge of the schools at the principal stations

The labours of these gentlemen have been highly beneficial to the colony; and besides the advantage of an improved system of education and course of instruction which they have introduced into the several schools put under their charge, they have already trained several young men as teachers for such schools on the Establishment, as may from time to time become vacant.

The number of schools at present on the Establishment, or aided on the conditions referred to, amount to 86. In these there are at present enrolled, 9080 pupils, that yield a daily attendance of from 6000 to 6500, of whom 250 are receiving instruction in the higher branches. In all of these schools the English language is taught, in respect to which there is no prejudice existing among any any class of the community; a sure test of this is its rapid extension and adoption in the daily transactions of society.

Crown Lands.

The Crown lands were held in this colony, up to the year 1813, on the system of loan leases, which was tantamount to permanent tenure, provided the annual rent was punctually paid. The lands thus occupied, generally averaged 6000 acres to each farm, for which an average rent was paid of 30 rds., or 2*l.* 5*s.* In 1813 this description of tenure was dicontinued. The greater part of the lands then held on loan leases have been since granted on perpetual quit-rent, some of which have latterly been redeemed at 15 years' purchase. At present no grants are made, except of lands long previously surveyed, but to which titles have not yet been issued.

During the years 1844, 5, and 6, Crown lands, to the extent of 2,443,990 acres, have been alienated, partly on perpetual quit-rent, and partly as freeholds, which, on an average of the three years, amounted to 814,663 acres annually. The following return shows the number of acres granted annually in each of the provinces, distinguishing the grants on perpetual quit-rent from those sold on freehold tenure. It also shows the average annual quit-rent per 100 acres, charged on such grants, with its present value at 16$\frac{2}{3}$rds years' purchase, which is the equivalent on the principle of perpetuities, reckoning interest at 6 per cent.—

RETURN of Crown Lands, granted on Perpetual Quit-Rent, and Sold on Freehold Tenure in 1844, 45, and 46.

	No. of Acres granted on Perpetual Quit-Rent.	Average Annual Quit-Rent per 100 Acres.	Present Value per 100 Acres, at 16⅔ Years' Purchase.	Lands Sold on Freehold Tenure.				Total No. of Acres Granted and Sold in each Year.	Aggregate Values, estimating Quit-Rents at 16⅔ Years' Purchase.	Total of Acres and Value in each Year in the Two Provinces.	
				No. of Acres Sold in Town Allotments.	Average Price per 100 Acres.	No. of Acres Sold for Farming Purposes on Country Lots.	Average Price per 100 Acres.				Value.
1844.	Acres.	s. d.	£. s. d.	Acres. Roods. F.	£. s.	Acres. Roods.	£. s. d.	By Purchase. Acres. Roods.	By Purchase. £. s. d.	Acres. Roods.	£. s. d.
Western Province . . .	1,622,871	0 5	0 6 11½	None.	None.	12,416 131	14 12 0	29,402 0	3,895 14 0	1,715,363 0	10,604 17 0
Eastern Province . . .	63,090	1 9½	1 9 10¾	26 120 0	15,492 12	16,960 0	12 5 6	Granted. 1,685,961 0	6,709 3 0		
1845.											
Western Province . . .	226,030	0 11	0 15 3⅛	165 25 0	175 15	4,035 0	42 14 6	By Purchase. 27,324 0	4,314 0 0		
Eastern Province . . .	10,617	0 9½	0 13 2	0 236 86	130,855 0	23,123 0	11 4 0	Granted. 332,647 0	2,462 10 0	359,971 0	6,776 10 0
1846.											
Western Province . . .	155,693	1 1½	0 18 9	107 103 0	3,693 10	9,035 0	27 10 7	By Purchase. 10,418 103	6,603 17 0		
Eastern Province . . .	202,545	0 5	0 7 0	None.	None.	1,276 0	10 0 0	Granted. 258,238 0	2,177 10 0	368,656 103	8,781 7 0
									Grand Total . .	2,443,990 103	26,162 14 0
									Triennial Average .	814,663 134	8,720 18 0

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

From this Table it appears, that, during this period, there has, on an average, been granted annually in the Western Province, on perpetual quit-rent, 668,198 acres, and in the Eastern, 124,084 acres; that in the Western Province the average annual quit-rent per 100 acres charged on the grants, was 5*d.* in 1844, 11*d.* in 1845, and 1*s.* 1½*d.* in 1846; whilst in the Eastern Province, it was 1*s.* 9½*d.*, 9½*d.*, and 5*d.* The number of acres sold in the Western Province, on freehold tenure, exclusive of town allotments, averaged 8,495 acres annually for the three years referred to.

The average price per 100 acres was, in 1844, 14*l.* 12*s.*; in 1845, 42*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; and in 1846, 27*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; the equivalents of which, in annual quit-rents, are 17*s.* 6¼*d.*, 54*s.* 1*d.*, and 33*s.* 0½*d.* per 100 acres, at 16⅔rds years' purchase. In the Eastern Province, the number of acres sold, exclusive of town allotments, averaged annually 13,786 acres. The average price per 100 acres was, in 1844, 12*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; in 1845, 11*l.* 4*s.*; and in 1846, 10*l.*; the equivalents of which, in annual quit-rent, at 16⅔rds years' purchase, are 14*l.* 8½*d.*, 13*s.* 5¼*d.*, and 12*s.* per 100 acres.

Calculating as above, the present value of annual revenue derivable from the quit-rent grants, made in the three years ending with 1846, it appears that the lands alienated in the two provinces, amounted to 2,443,990 acres; which, in purchase-money and quit-rent value realized the sum of 26,163*l.*

From these results, it is evident that the average amount of quit-rent laid on lands granted on this species of tenure has been below what has been realized when they were put up to public sale, and that no inconsiderable advantage has accrued to the revenue from the late adoption of this system.

The quantity of land granted in the colony, up to the 31st December, 1846, is 41,391,377 acres, being about one-half of its estimated area. Of the lands not yet granted, there are several loan places hitherto converted according to the system adopted in 1813; besides the lands of the Kat River Settlement, those appropriated are outspan places and town commons, and lands long since surveyed, of which no grants have as yet been issued. It is generally considered that about two-fifths of the area of the colony is wholly unfit either for agricultural or pastoral purposes, being composed of karoo, or desert tracts, barren wastes, and mountain ranges.

Public Works.

The public works executed in this colony in 1844-5-6, of any magnitude or importance, are the new lines of road now being constructed throughout the different divisions of the colony. Towards the close of 1843, an ordinance passed the Legislative Council, empowering the Governor to constitute a Central Board of Commissioners of Public Roads, for the construction of lines of main road throughout the colony, and authorizing the landowners in the several divisions to elect, from among themselves, Divisional Boards for the maintenance and construction of the branch roads of each division. To the Central Board was committed the power of levying three rates on the fixed property of each of the divisions of the colony; and to the Divisional Boards a similar power, and to the same extent; each in its own division; under this limitation: that no rate shall be levied exceeding 1*d.* in the pound, nor shall any rate be levied within one year from the date at which any previous road-rate had become due.

Besides the resources thus provided by assessing the fixed property of the colony, votes of money have been placed by the Legislative Council at the disposal of the Central Board, each year, since the commencement of its operations in 1844; and all convicts, whose sentences exceeded three months' imprisonment with hard labour, have also been placed at the disposal and under the management of the Central Board, who have employed them chiefly in the opening up of mountain passes.

When the members of this Board entered on their duties, their attention was at once drawn to the formation of a continuous line of road between Cape Town, the metropolis of the colony, and its eastern frontier, which, in extent, exceeds 500 miles. For various and obvious considerations, this constituted the first and principal undertaking in which the Board would have to engage. Apart from the consequence which must attach to the maintenance of an uninterrupted line of open intercourse between the seats of the Supreme and Provincial Governments, the line of main road, with a few branches of trifling extent, will, when completed, connect with the seats of Government, and with one another, three-fifths of the chief towns of divisions, seats of magistracy, and villages in the colony.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

In constructing this line, the first work in point of magnitude and importance was the formation of a hard road across the Cape Flats, in extent about 25 miles. This has been completed, and the road opened on the 1st January, 1846.

Next in importance was the opening of the Cradock Pass, through a mountain range, the most formidable barrier to traffic and general intercourse in the whole line, and situate in the very centre of those fertile districts which constitute the sea-board of the colony east of Table Bay. On this pass, upwards of 200 convicts, besides miners and artificers have been employed since January, 1844. In extent, it is little short of five and a-half miles; through the greater part of which the road has been formed, chiefly by blasting the solid rock; being supported, in several places, solely by embankments, along the face of stupendous precipices. This great work is now nearly completed, and it is arranged that the road will be opened in January next.

While engaged with this pass, the Central Board formed a road station of free labourers at Howison's Port, another pass, but less extensive and precipitous than that of Cradock Mountain, in the immediate vicinity of Graham's Town. This work was subsequently interrupted in 1846 by the Kaffir war, which withdrew the labourers to the defence of the adjoining frontier, but it has again been resumed.

Another pass of considerable difficulty and extent, called Mastert's Hoek (Corner), is now being completed solely by means of convict labour. It is situate in the Worcester division, and, when completed, will open up several valuable and fertile districts to the Cape Town market, where at present little is cultivated, the produce being almost entirely limited to supply the consumption of the inhabitants themselves, and that of the migrating Sheep Boer in the adjoining Karoo.

When the works at Cradock Mountain are completed, the convict road-gangs now employed on that pass will be removed to the Zuurberg Pass, in the Eastern Province, which belongs to a trunk line, that connects the back districts of that province with Port Elizabeth, in Algoa Bay. After which it is contemplated to open up the mountain range called the Great Zwarteberg or Black Mountains; by which and the Cradock Pass those extensive tracts of country, constituting the central section of the colony, will have uninterrupted access to Mossel Bay, the central port of the colony.

Trade, Navigation, and the Monetary Affairs of the Colony.

It was my intention to have entered somewhat into detail on these important topics, in order to show the marked improvement which has taken place during the period under review, both in the internal and foreign trade of the colony, the extent of shipping that has frequented its ports, and the large increase in its monetary transactions, consequent on an increase and remunerating trade; but as your Excellency's attention has been drawn to the system of banking that obtains in this colony, and as it is most probable that an inquiry will be instituted both in the state of our currency and the principles on which banking has hitherto been carried on, previous to the adoption of some legislative measure for the protection of interests so vitally connected with the advancement and prosperity of the colony, I have on consideration thought it better to postpone the subject until the contemplated inquiry has been instituted, when I shall have the honour of resuming the discussion of these matters, and submitting my views in the form of a supplementary report.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN MONTAGU,
Secretary to Government.

His Excellency Governor Pottinger,
&c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

(No. 20.) No. 35.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir P. Ross to Earl Grey.

Castle, Jamestown, St. Helena,
April 22, 1847.

My Lord,

Herewith I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1846, containing the usual information under the respective heads.

Finance.

The taxes and duties collected for the year amount to the sum of 13,671*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, exclusive of 1,230*l.* 11*s.* received on account of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund—a falling off in the revenue of the colony, as compared with the previous year, of 1,892*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* 1,070*l.* of this deficiency is at once accounted for as commutation money received in 1845, whereas no rents have been commuted during the present year, 1846.

A falling off in the customs and port charges of 1,203*l.* 6*s.*, as compared with 1845, has occurred, and is accounted for by the guano trade with Ichaboe having entirely ceased. The vessels engaged in the above trade, to the number of several hundred, frequented this island on their homeward voyage, and necessarily incurred port and other charges, thereby benefiting the revenue. 13,000*l.* to 14,000*l.* may therefore be considered as a fair average revenue for St. Helena.

Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year 1846 has reached the sum of 21,193*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* an excess over the year 1845 of 2,077*l.*; and I regret to add that an excess of the expenditure may be expected to continue until the comparatively great works now in the hands of the engineer shall be completed. The wharf, for instance, which was seriously damaged by the heavy rollers of February, 1845, and the repairs of which are estimated at 4,000*l.* and upwards; New Civil Hospital, erecting principally for the accommodation of the merchant service; the Castle, in Jamestown, &c., are all extensive works in a place badly off for artificers, and will probably not be completed for two or three years, though urgently required, and sanctioned by the Secretary of State as being indispensably necessary. An additional outlay of 1,000*l.* has likewise been incurred during the past year, under the head of Special Disbursements for the Purchase of a Site for the New Civil Hospital.

Civil Establishment.

In May, 1846, Governor Trelawny died. Pending my arrival in the colony, which took place in November last, the Government was administered, first by Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser, of the Royal Artillery, as senior officer; and again by Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, who arrived from England in July, and assumed the government as senior to Colonel Fraser.

A trifling increase (amounting to 93*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) in the salary of the servants at the Civil Hospital was found necessary, and has been sanctioned.

Pensions.

The pensions paid in the colony during 1846 are 2,613*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, nearly the whole of which (41*l.* 14*s.* excepted) are paid to the late Company's servants. The following additions have been made to the pension list payable from the funds of the colony:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Seedee Fran, a Lascar, late of the Marine Department, per annum	18	5	0
Chinese Achan, a carpenter in the Company's service, late Engineer Department	18	5	0
	£36	10	0

ST. HELENA.

Whilst the following reductions have taken place by the death of the Company's late servants:—

	£.	s.	d.
Captain O'Connor	270	0	0
Captain Pritchard	155	0	0
Private Houze	13	13	9
	£438	13	9

Of which 195*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* had been received by the parties in 1846, previous to their demise. And I would beg to suggest, in connexion with the annual decrease of these pensions, that the amount thus saved should henceforward be appropriated with a view of increasing the salaries of the public servants on the island, as I can with confidence assert, and I believe the fact is now generally admitted, that their salaries are insufficient to meet the expenses of their establishment, on however economical a footing they may be placed, and that therefore the respectability of the service demands some addition to their present income

Parish and Population.

The population of the island is calculated to be 5,300, and the expense of the parish in connexion with the poor amounts to the sum of 695*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*

Societies and Schools.

There exist at present four private societies or funds for the benefit of the lower classes, besides the benevolent society, founded in 1814, for the relief and education of the poor. Two schools in town and three in the country are kept by this society, at which 251 children are at present educated at an annual expense of 186*l.*, whilst the Government schools educate 302 children, 40 of whom are of the second class in life, and the remainder in the lower, at an annual expenditure of 500*l.* These schools are placed under the superintendence of the colonial chaplain. I may here state my wish, as it is my duty, to give much attention to the important subject of establishing these schools on a more effective footing; and to accomplish this, the appointment of an additional clergyman, who might, as formerly, have the principal classical school under his immediate superintendence and instruction, is very desirable.

Military.

The following are the disbursements made by the Commissary under this head during 1846:—

	£.	s.	d.
Ordnance	5,093	5	9
Ordinaries	10,009	17	4

Currency and Exchange.

The total of bills drawn by the Commissary amount to 33,421*l.*; the loss for discount on these bills is 426*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, it having reached as high as 7½ per cent. in consequence of the scarcity of money, when the arrival in January of 10,000*l.* (ten thousand sovereigns) from England again enabled the Commissary, by taking advantage of the market, to obtain a premium on bills. The sovereigns, as they are issued from the treasury, find their way back to England as remittances from the merchants. It follows, therefore, that when the 10,000 sovereigns shall have been issued, the Government will again have to pay a heavy discount, unless the want is anticipated by a timely annual cash remittance from England. This money was shipped in the bark "Mercury," which was 110 days on its passage, having got on shore in the channel. Steamers would be the most advisable mode of conveying specie in future to this colony.

Mortality.

Deaths, 113.
Births, 198.

During the year 1846, 113 deaths have taken place; of which 24 were in the Civil Hospital, out of 281 patients admitted; and in the Military Hospital 2 deaths have occurred out of 601 patients received. The great difference observable in the two hospitals in the number of deaths is to be accounted for by the obligation of the soldier to go to hospital on slight occasions.

Trade.

During the year 1846, 993 vessels have arrived at St. Helena, 465 fewer than the year previous; and this decrease has already been accounted for by the trade with Ichaboe having ceased.

Liberated Africans.

The gross expenditure under this head during 1846 amounts to the sum of 6,361*l.*, of which 2,649*l.* has been disbursed in cash in the colony, the remainder 3,712*l.* in treasury bills. These sums have been partly expended in the maintenance of Africans, 2,110 of whom have been received between the 26th December, 1845, and the 30th November, 1846, the balance having been laid out in the erection of sheds, tents, &c., which are now occupied by more recent arrivals brought here by the "Penelope," Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, on the 5th instant.

Agriculture.

A society for the improvement of the above has of late been established, from which I am inclined to argue favourably. At present the land in cultivation does not exceed 155 acres. There are 7,500 acres in pasturage, much of which is capable of cultivation, besides 24,500 suitable for sheep and goats.

Gaols and Prisons.

The want of proper accommodation in the gaol has frequently been brought under the notice of your Lordship's predecessors in office. It is, however, impossible at present, from want of artificers and labourers, to undertake any improvements. The total number of prisoners committed in the course of the year is 255; of this number about one-half are inhabitants of the island, the remainder Portuguese, Brazilians, seamen, &c.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) PATRICK ROSS.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

(No. 117.) No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. A. FITZROY to EARL GREY.

Government House, Sydney,
May 27, 1847.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ended the 31st December, 1846; and in compliance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 101, of the 5th of May, 1842, I proceed to offer such observations upon the condition of the Colony as may be interesting to your Lordship.

Taxes, Duties, &c. (*pp.* 1-15).

The total revenue derived from the duties on spirits, imported as well as made in the Colony, was in—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	107,056	17	4
1846	86,037	9	3

This decrease has arisen from the reduction in the duties on spirits under the Act 9th Victoria, No. 20. The *ad valorem* duties remain as last reported; but their amount is progressively improving with the recovering prospects of the colony. They produced in—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	19,471	0	2
1846	27,779	15	4

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The duties on tobacco produced in—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	48,990	3	2
1846	53,400	12	1

The wharfage and harbour dues amounted in 1846 to 6592*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; but by the local Act 10th Victoria, No. 11, all wharfage dues payable direct to the Government are abolished from the 1st January 1847, the Governor being authorised to let, by public auction, the wharfage or tonnage rates receivable at the public wharves, such rates not to exceed those mentioned in the 8th Victoria, No. 16, and the rates of wharfage at private wharves not to exceed those charged at public wharves.

Post Office (*pp.* 222-334).

The revenue produced by the Post-office, although considerable, has not hitherto added much to the general revenue of the Colony, owing to the causes specified by my predecessor in his Report on the Blue Book for 1845, namely, the great extent of the Colony and the dispersed state of the population.

The revenue was in—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	18,001	11	6
1846	17,924	13	3

The expenditure—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	16,335	13	4
1846	16,165	15	7

The Act of the Imperial Parliament (7th and 8th Victoria, c. 49) placing the Post-office under the direction of the Postmaster-General in England, is not yet in operation.

The local Act (2d Victoria, No. 27), under which the assessment on stock depastured on Crown lands was levied, expired on the 30th of June, 1846. The amount received for the first six months of that year was 17,918*l.* 15*s.* 7*d*; and nothing in the shape of assessment on stock has since then been received.

The fees on licences to occupy Crown lands, and to cut timber, which are part of the Crown revenue, produced in—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	31,790	2	6
1846	39,724	18	1

Fees of Office (*pp.* 15-41).

The revenue derived from fees of office was, in—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	9,479	11	0
1846	10,931	18	10

The fees taken in the Insolvent Court and in the Courts of Request, which in 1845 and 1846 were applied to defray the expenses of those Courts, will, in 1847, be again carried to the general revenue, the Legislative Council having, in their second session of 1846, voted (as a supplement to schedule A of the Constitutional Act, 5th and 6th Victoria, c. 76) the funds necessary for the maintenance of these Courts. These fees amounted in 1844 to—

	£.	s.	d.
Insolvent Court	2088	19	0
Courts of Request . . .	4413	4	10
	£6502	3	10

The fees taken in all the Courts of Justice have greatly decreased. In the Supreme Court, in Sydney, they were in—

	£.	s.	d.
1842	14,460	15	7
1845	5,045	9	8
1846	4,530	0	6

Revenue and Expenditure (*pp.* 41-105).

The accounts of the Colony are made up in accordance with the principles laid down in the Constitutional Act, 5th and 6th Victoria, c. 76.

The ordinary revenue, that is to say, the revenue derived from taxes, duties, rates, and imposts, was in the year—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1845	283,945	16	2
1846	270,550	9	9

Therefore the revenue of 1845 exceeded that of 1846 by 13,395*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*

The expenditure chargeable on the ordinary revenue was in—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1845	251,087	10	11
1846	254,177	4	1

Therefore the expenditure of 1845 was less than that of 1846, by 3089*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
And the ordinary revenue of 1846 being	270,550	9	9
And the expenditure	254,177	4	1
The revenue of 1846 exceeded the expenditure by .	£16,373	5	8

Crown Revenue.

The following is a statement of the Crown revenue for 1846:—

Territorial:—	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Land sold	27,060	15	7
Quit rents	7,296	1	7
Depasturing licenses	38,943	18	1
Timber ditto	781	0	0
Rents, leases, &c. within the boundaries . .	4,566	4	10
	78,648	0	1
Casual Revenue	3,060	2	1
Total	£82,708	2	2

The charges on the same revenue for 1846 were—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Survey and management . .	13,381	1	4
Aborigines	2,062	10	11
Immigration	1,782	19	8
Interest on Debentures . . .	7,383	15	0
Miscellaneous	1,682	19	11
Debentures paid off	9,500	0	0
	£35,793	6	10

There is a balance, therefore, on the Crown revenue of 46,914*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, applicable towards the paying off of the remaining outstanding debentures.

Convict Expenditure (*pp.* 105-117).

The expenditure under this head continues to decrease; it was in—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1845	31,582	10	0
1846	27,713	4	9

The number of convicts in the colony, according to the Blue Book for 1846, is 11,271, being a decrease on the previous year of 5572.

Local Revenues (*pp.* 117-125).

The local revenues of the city of Sydney amounted in 1846 to 9022*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, those of the town of Melbourne to 5140*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

The District Councils are in the same state of abeyance and inaction, and require no report.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Military Expenditure (*pp.* 125-147).

No expense has been incurred in account of military defences in the Colony, and the only colonial military expenditure is that for the mounted police, amounting in 1846 to 5880*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

The amount paid for gratuities to officers and soldiers, out of colonial funds, for guarding convicts employed on public works for the Colony, was, in 1846, 1027*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

Legislation (*pp.* 147-157).

The reports on the Acts passed by the Legislative Council in 1846 are contained in Sir George Gipps' Despatch, No. 130, of the 26th June, 1846, and my own Despatch, No. 10, of the 9th January, 1847.

Councils and Assemblies (*pp.* 157-163).

No observations on this head seem necessary.

Civil Establishment (*pp.* 163-359).

This head appears to require no report.

Security for Discharge of Duties (*pp.* 359-369).

This head appears to require no report.

Pensions, (*pp.* 369-374).

The Pension List shows an increase in 1846. The pensions payable in the Colony were, in—

	£.	s.	d.
1845	619	17	10
1846	664	2	6

Recapitulation of the Establishment (*pp.* 374-377).

No observations seem necessary.

Foreign Consuls (*pp.* 377-379).

There are only two consuls in the Colony, French and American.

Population, (*pp.* 379-437).

A census of the Colony was taken on the 2nd March, 1846, of which a general summary will be found at page 382. The population was shown at that date to be 189,609 souls (exclusive of Port Essington), being an increase, during the preceding five years, of 58,753 souls.

Ecclesiastical Returns (*pp.* 437-459).

The number of clergymen receiving salaries from the Government in the year 1846 was 141, being an increase of 27 on the previous year.

The amount secured for public worship, under Schedule C of the 5th and 6th Vict. c. 76, is distributed under the arrangement sanctioned by the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 19, of the 17th January, 1846.

Education (*pp.* 459-475).

No alteration has been made in the method of providing for education in the Colony.

The number of schools is stated, at page 473, to be 394, being 27 more than there were in 1845. The number of scholars is also increased by 2517.

Exchange, Moneys, &c. (*pp.* 475-495).

The coin in the Colony was, in—

1845	£875,166
1846	847,316

The paper money in circulation was, in—

1845	£196,310
1846	210,219

Exchange has been for the most part at par.

Imports and Exports (*pp.* 495-533).

The imports (Port Phillip included) were, in—

1845	£1,233,854
1846	1,630,522

The exports (Port Phillip included) were in—

1845	£1,555,986
1846	1,487,258

The export of wool from the whole Colony was, in—

	lbs.	Value.
1845 . . .	17,364,734	£1,009,242
1846 . . .	16,479,520	1,019,985

The value of tallow exported was, in—

1845	£102,746
1846	28,107

The great decrease in the value of tallow exported appears to have arisen from the great deficiency of the natural grasses in the greater part of the year 1846, and the consequent impossibility of obtaining fat stock, which, of course, is the only stock fit for boiling down and converting into tallow. The return of favourable seasons, the low price of wool in the European markets, and the high price of labour prevailing in the Colony, will probably restore this item to its former large amount.

Agriculture (*pp.* 533-539).

The returns of produce and live stock will be found at page 534; but it is doubtful whether the agricultural tables can be depended upon for accuracy.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries (*pp.* 539-545).

The manufacture of Tweed cloth in the Colony is progressively improving; and the working of a copper mine at Molong, in the western district of the Colony, has been lately commenced with some prospect of success.

Grants of Land (*pp.* 545-553).

No observation seems necessary in respect to grants; an improvement is shown in the amount received for the sale of land:—

	£.
In 1845 it was	18,451
In 1846	28,255

Gaols and Prisoners (*pp.* 553-575).

The following Returns of the comparative state of crime in the Colony will be found interesting:—

Convictions in the Supreme Court.

	1845.	1846.
Murder	8	7
Other Felonies . . .	190	173
Misdemeanours . . .	42	44

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Convictions in Courts of Quarter Sessions.

	1845.	1846.
Felonies	303	350
Misdemeanours	51	77
Criminals executed	3	1
Civil cases tried in the Supreme Court	178	197
Of which the number of undefended, or short cases, was	26	26

Miscellaneous Returns (*pp.* 575-594).

A variety of Returns is given at the end of the Blue Book, as printed for the Legislative Council of the Colony. A table of the contents of them will be found at page 576, and they disclose a great body of useful statistical information.

In conclusion, I have the gratification of feeling justified in stating my belief that the Colony is in a thriving condition; and provided it is blessed with favourable seasons, and the increase in the labouring population which is now so much required, there appears to me to be every reason to hope for the continuance of its prosperity.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey. &c. &c.

(Signed) CHAS. A. FITZROY.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 37.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

(No. 61.) No. 37.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir W. DENISON to Earl GREY.

Van Diemen's Land, Government House, May 19, 1847.

Blue Book for 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the Blue Book for this colony, for the year 1846.

It is prepared, I believe, in the usual form; but there is a want of clearness and precision in the mode in which the details are presented which, I trust, will not occur again. The period which has elapsed since my arrival in the colony has been too short, and the subjects requiring my immediate attention too numerous and important, to enable me to do more than notice briefly the various subjects contained in the book.

Revenue.

On reference to the Comparative Statement of the Revenue for the years 1845 and 1846, there is an apparent decrease in the latter year of 13,783*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, but this is not the case in reality. In the revenue of 1845 is included a loan of 32,000*l.*, which had been borrowed from the Commercial Bank, in aid of the colonial revenue.

If this sum be deducted from the total amount stated, the actual revenue of 1845 would only be 104,983*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

In like manner, in the revenue for 1846, is included a loan of 6000*l.*, borrowed from the Bank of Australasia; deducting, therefore, this sum, the actual revenue for 1846 will amount to 117,199*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, thus showing an actual increase of 12,216*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* in the revenue of 1846 over that of 1845.

This amount is altogether irrespective of the 25,000*l.* granted by the Home Government in aid of the sum voted for police and gaols, and expense of witnesses, no portion of which was received in 1846; neither has any deduction been made on account of the land fund which was directed to be paid over to the Commissariat; but which transfer did not take place until 1847.

Customs' Duties.—The principal increase is in the customs' duties and in the receipts for dog licences, the consequence of two Acts of Council which came into operation in 1846, viz., No. 18, of 1845, to increase certain duties of customs, and No. 5, of 1846, to restrain the increase of dogs. Customs.

There is also an increase of 4984*l.* 5*s.* in the proceeds of the sale and rental of Crown lands, in consequence of a greater demand for renting the waste lands of the Crown, for the purpose of depasturing sheep and cattle.

There is a trifling increase of revenue from nearly every department of the Government, except those connected with the Supreme Court and Court of Requests.

With regard to the Expenditure,

There is an apparent decrease of 15,986*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* below the expenditure of 1845; but this is owing, in part, to the salaries of all the higher officers of the Government, for the months of October and November, 1846, amounting to 5,301*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, not having been paid until 1847, in consequence of the low state of the treasury. Expenditure.

The Gunpowder Fees have been inserted in the Blue Book, as directed by the Secretary of State in his Despatch, "Military, Separate," 6th March, 1846, and a Report was made on the subject by the late Sir Eardley Wilmot, in his Despatch of 24th September, 1846, No. 156. Gunpowder Fees.

With respect to the Public Works,

The only public work commenced in 1846 at the expense of the colony was the lighthouse on Kent's Group; and this subject has been fully reported upon in Mr. Latrobe's Despatch of the 10th November, 1846, No. 11. Public Works.

The foundations of it are laid, the superintendent's house and store built, and the building will be ready in about six months to receive the lanterns which were ordered from England by the New South Wales Government early in the year 1846.

The public works, of a military nature, have all been carried on at the expense of British funds, under the authority of the Master-General and Honourable Board of Ordnance.

The only new building commenced, is an office for the Commanding Royal Engineer, at an estimated expence of 395*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; the old building used as such being both inconvenient and wanting in accommodation.

The changes consequent upon the modifications of the system of convict discipline, detailed in your Lordship's Despatch, No. 1, dated 30th September, 1846, will be very great; as, owing to circumstances which it is needless at present to notice, great laxity of discipline prevailed in nearly all the convict gangs. The whole of these arrangements will be specially reported upon, as soon as they can be definitely settled; and as they will be noticed in the Blue Book for the present year, I shall not now attempt to enter into any details; it is only necessary for me to state to your Lordship, that, where buildings have been commenced, the expense to be incurred has passed under the review of the committee of officers. Convict. Convict Gangs.

The Acts passed during the last Session were 18 in number, and are detailed at page 90. Upon most of them it is unnecessary to make any remarks, but there are some which require special notice. Legislature.

The Act No. 7, is entitled, "An Act to abolish certain Differential Duties of "Customs." It apppears, that, by an Act of Council passed in the 4th Will. IV., No. 15, a duty of five per cent., *ad valorem*, was placed upon all tea and sugar, and other goods, wares, and merchandize, not being the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of New South Wales and its dependencies. By 6th Victoria, No. 1, entitled, "An Act for admitting Articles, the Produce of "New Zealand, into this Island and its Dependencies Duty free," this exemption, for a short time, extended to New Zealand, and the goods were admitted duty free; but the Act was disallowed in a Despatch from Lord Stanley, No. 74, dated 11th August, 1843, in which the principle of establishing differential duties in favour of particular colonies was strongly condemned.

The 8th Victoria, No. 18, imposed a duty of 15 per cent., *ad valorem*, instead of 5 per cent., upon all tea, sugar, and other goods, wares, and merchandize, not being the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of New South Wales and its dependencies; thus continuing the exemption, notwithstanding the opinion expressed by Lord Stanley.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

But in the last Session, under pretence of abolishing certain differential duties, the former exemption, in favour of New South Wales, was done away with.

The only articles which are imported to any account from New South Wales are cattle and sheep; and the real reason for doing away with the privilege in favour of New South Wales, was the wish to impose a protecting duty upon those articles in which the farmers of Port Philip could enter into competition with the farmers of Van Diemen's Land. Objectionable as the principle of discriminating duties may be, yet I cannot but think, that in this particular instance the evils which could arise from the continuance of the practice were so trifling, inasmuch as the produce of New South Wales could not enter into competition in the market of Van Diemen's Land with that of any other colony, as, by no means, to justify a change which introduces the principle of protection.

The Act No. 10, "To provide for paving, lighting, and cleansing the City of "Hobart Town, and for appointing Commissioners for carrying into effect the "several objects aforesaid," has not been found to work well, on account of defects in some of its details; these defects I propose to remedy in the forthcoming Session of the Legislative Council, merely, however, with the view of enabling the Commissioners to carry out the provisions of the Act as a temporary measure.

Looking, as I do, upon the municipal system, under proper control, as a most invaluable, and, indeed, a necessary element in any system of representative government, I do not think it would be wise or politic to attempt to limit the duties and responsibilities of the Commissioners within the narrow bounds proposed by this Act. They will naturally look upon themselves as elected for the purpose of watching over all the material interests in which the inhabitants, as a community, are concerned, while they can only be recognized by the Government as Commissioners for the limited purposes expressed in the Act. Occupying thus a sort of anomalous position between the inhabitants and the Government, there will be a constant struggle on their part to wrest from the latter the power to which they will consider themselves fairly entitled, while their actual duties will be lost sight of and neglected. I propose, therefore, as soon as possible, to address your Lordship on the subject of granting charters of incorporation to the city of Hobart Town and the town of Launceston.

Pensions.

The only pension granted in 1846 is an allowance of 1*s*. a-day to Adam Sproule, who, while acting as guard to the royal mail, had his thigh broken by the upsetting of the coach, and was thus entirely disabled.

The reasons for granting this pension are stated in Despatch, No. 69, dated 31st May, 1847.

Census.

No census of the population has been taken since December, 1842, in consequence of the expense of the measure; it then cost 437*l*. 1*s*. It will be desirable to carry out the provisions of this Act, establishing the census during the present year. There are several facts relating to the rapid emigration from this colony to Port Philip and South Australia, which require the evidence of an authorized census to bring them properly under the notice of the Government.

It will not probably be thought necessary hereafter to carry into effect the provisions of the Act more frequently than once in five years, as in the case in New South Wales.

Education.

The number of children attending the Government schools, has increased from 1469 in 1845, to 1511 in 1846, while the expenses of the salaries of the schoolmasters and rents of school-houses have decreased 511*l*. 19*s*. 8*d*. since 1845.

No attempt has yet been made to carry into effect the recommendations contained in Mr. Gladstone's Despatch, No. 55, dated 3rd March, 1846, upon the important subject of education. As the system is conducted at present, there is a great deficiency of local superintendence, and the general inspection and control is hardly sufficiently provided for in the occasional visits of the Secretary of the Board of Education. I propose, however, to consider the subject carefully, and to bring before your Lordship such modifications of the existing system as will not only make it more efficient, but will also, I hope, bring it more in harmony with the religious feelings of a large section of the community, who are at present arrayed in opposition to it.

Imports.

The imports of 1846, amounted in value to 561,238*l*. exceeding those of 1845 by 30,776*l*., principally in hardware, clothing, and haberdashery.

Exports.

The exports of 1846, amounted in value to 582,585*l*., exceeding those of 1845, by 160,367*l*.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Of this sum, from exports, no less than 150,045*l.* was for grain and flour exported to England, and the adjacent colonies, while the staple commodities of the colony, consisting of bark, fruit, live stock, oil, potatoes, whalebone and wool, amounted to 319,131*l.*

Ships.

The number of ships arriving in 1846, exeeeded that of 1845 by 52, while 80 more ships sailed from the two ports of Hobart Town and Launceston in 1846 than in 1845.

Agricultural.

In 1846 there were 152,343 acres in cultivation, while in 1845, there were 140,953½ acres.

Horses have increased from 1824 to 15,323.

Cattle have decreased from 76,417 to 72,454.

Sheep have increased from 1,253,481 to 1,313,622.

The average price of wheat was, in 1846, 4*s.* 6*d.* a bushel, and in 1845, 3*s.* 6*d.* a bushel.

The evidence afforded by the returns of land under cultivation, and of produce received therefrom, (though I am not disposed to place any great faith in its accuracy), is yet quite sufficient to prove that the agriculture of this colony is at a very low ebb. The amount of produce generally per acre is far below that which an ordinary degree of skill and attention should produce, with such a soil and such a climate as this colony is blest with.

The produce of one of the most fertile districts is as follows, per acre:—

Wheat	23½	bushels.
Oats	32½	,,
Barley	9	,,
Peas	20¾	,,
Beans	11¼	,,
Potatoes	3⅛	tons.
Turnips	4½	,,

Whilst the general average per acre, appears to be:—

Wheat	15	bushels.
Oats	9½	,,
Barley	18	,,
Peas	18	,,
Beans	15⅜	,,
Potatoes	4¼	tons.
Turnips	4½	,,

Complaints are consequently made by the inhabitants, of the want of a market for this produce, whereas were proper care and attention bestowed on the cultivation of the ground, the amount produced would be much greater, the expense per acre little, if at all, more, and the price of produce would be then low enough to open the market of the world to the colonist.

There have been no free grants of land, but 1270 acres of country lots were sold at an average of 22*s.* per acre, and 536 acres of town allotmeuts at an average of 7*l.* per acre.

The gaols of the colony are all in a very bad state, both as regards security and repair; the sheriff truly observes, that they are both ill-constructed and deficient in accommodation, and that it is impossible to carry out properly the separation or classification of the prisoners, nor can any sentence of hard labour be carried into effect in any one of the gaols,

In the present state of the finance, remedies can only be very gradually applied to this evil.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. DENISON.

No. 38.

No. 38.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Lieut.-Governor Sir W. DENISON.

SIR, Downing-street, December 12, 1847.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 61, of the 19th of May last, forwarding the Blue Book for Van Diemen's Land for the year 1846, together with the Annual Report of the Statistics of the Colony for that year.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

That return is satisfactory, as exhibiting an improvement in the general condition of the colony during the period to which it refers.

It is highly useful and convenient that the Blue Books should be prepared with the utmost clearness and precision; and I am glad to find that you intend to turn your attention to the correction and improvement of these returns in future.

There is one error in your report to which I may advert.

The horses are stated to have increased, in a comparison of the two years 1845 and 1846, from 1824 to 15,323. This is obviously incorrect. On referring to the Blue Book for 1845, it would appear that the number of horses then in the colony was about 14,820.

I have not failed to notice your remarks, under the head of Legislation, on the subject of protecting duties. It will be very desirable that you should induce the Legislature of your colony to repeal all differential duties on foreign produce, and to establish a scale of duties regulated with a view to the single object of revenue, giving, at the same time, to trade as much freedom as possible, consistently with that object. I would suggest, that, in forming such a scale of duties, it would be expedient, following the example of this country, to repeal all duties on agricultural produce and live stock.

I have also read with interest your remarks on the subject of the establishment of municipal institutions. I concur in the views which you have stated on that subject, and I shall await with anxiety the further report which you have promised with regard to it.

I have, &c.

To Lieut-Governor Sir W. Denison. (Signed) GREY.
&c. &c. &c.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 39.

(No. 57.) No. 39.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor ROBE to Earl GREY.

Adelaide, South Australia,
May 17, 1847.

MY LORD,

Blue Book. 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of South Australia for 1846; compiled in the Colonial Secretary's Office with care and neatness.

In the "schedules of taxes, duties, fees, &c.," there have been considerable alteration during the year. The tariff of customs duties underwent revision, principally with the view of introducing fixed instead of *ad valorem* duties. The alteration came into operation at the commencement of the last quarter of the year. The collections were, therefore, under the old tariff for three quarters, and under the new tariff during one quarter. If separated into quarters, the following results would be shown, viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.
In the March quarter . . .	6,893	15	1
In the June quarter . . .	8,452	4	6
In the September quarter .	9,415	10	3
Under the old tariff . .	24,761	9	10
In the December quarter .	12,811	17	7
Total	£37,643	7	5

It is not, however, to be argued therefrom that the alteration in the tariff has produced the large increase in the fourth quarter, as this is, at all times, the season of the greatest commercial activity; when ships from England arrive with supplies, and to take home the wool, grain, bark, gum, and other colonial produce. The shipments of ore are also more likely to be in activity in the summer season, on account of the state of the roads.

The Collector of Customs reports very favourably of the practical working of the fixed tariff, as compared with the *ad valorem* dues. There are some anomalies in it, produced by alterations made in its progress through the Council; and per-

haps some of the articles still rated by their value, would admit of further classification for fixed duties; but it is not my purpose, in this despatch, to enter into the details of the new tariff, having already done so, in transmitting the Ordinance fixing it, for the Royal consideration and commands. I merely desire to point out that, in principle and in practice, it has, as far as we can yet see, been beneficial to the revenue.

The duties on spirits and tobacco have been transferred from one tariff to the other, with the alteration only of the admission of underproof spirits at lower rates. These articles have produced during the year 55 per cent. of the gross revenue of the customs, and 45 per cent. of the entire revenue of the province from other sources, inclusive.

Judging from the information which this book affords (though I am aware it is not altogether an exact criterion, there being no return in it of the quantities in bond at the beginning and end of the year), it would appear that the duties levied bear about the following proportions to the values of the imports consumed:—

On spirits . . .	138	per cent. *ad valorem.*
On tobacco . . .	108	„ „
On wines . . .	15	„ „
On other goods .	5	„ „

These averages are roughly taken, but they serve sufficiently well to answer the great purpose of statistical information generally.

The "City Rates" are a new impost under an Ordinance of 1846, and are applied to the local purpose of the streets of Adelaide; and in aid of which, a contribution from the general revenue of the province, of nearly equal amount, has been made. The rate of the assessment here stated is for half-a-year only. There are two such rates in the year. Its amount, for the half-year, is not fully shown, as the major part of the collections were made after the 31st December, 1846.

Fees have been established, by legislative enactment, in 1846, upon fixing the public and the Governor's seals to documents requiring them; these fees form part of the general revenue.

The fees on land grants were reduced in 1846; from a scale increasing in proportion to the extent of the grant, to a fixed sum of 1*l.* on all grants; merely to cover the cost of preparation and registration.

The charge for licences, under the Waste Lands Act, for felling and removing timber, has been augmented in 1846, from 1*l.* to 5*l.* Notwithstanding which the number already taken out for 1847 far exceeds that for any former year.

By a local Ordinance in 1846, the assessment on stock depastured on the waste lands of the Crown, has been so far reduced as that horses are now charged at the same rate as horned cattle. Previously they were charged at a much higher rate. Goats and swine are now rated the same as sheep, whereas formerly they were free.

These changes in the sources of revenue have all been specially reported upon as they occurred.

The revenue from customs has increased largely in 1846, as compared with 1845.

The ratios of increase may be stated nearly as follows:—

From spirits	59	per cent.
From tobacco	30	„
From wines	68	„
From other goods	68	„
Other customs receipts	15	„
On the gross receipts	54	„

The total increase in that department of the revenue has been £13,447. 4*s.* 3*d.*

The dues on "Entry and Clearance," and the "Wharfage," "Pilotage," and "Harbour" dues, were abolished in the middle of 1845, and none were collected in 1846; no inference can, therefore, be drawn from the comparative return, as to the effect produced upon the customs receipts, by the abolition of those dues.

It was thought that this measure would augment the number of shipping resorting to the port. The Collector of Customs is of opinion that, as regards small vessels trading with the neighbouring colonies, this effect has, to a certain extent, been produced; but that not a single ship of the larger class trading to England, or to distant ports, has been brought here in consequence of the absence of port charges. He considers that the freight of exportable produce, and the con-

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

sequent increase of imports, have been the only causes of the increase of such shipping; freights have, indeed, increased since the abolition of port charges.

Other measures have been taken for increasing the trade with the neighbouring colonies; namely, the abolition of duties of import on very principal articles of their export; such as corn, coals, carts, and drays, agricultural implements, horses and other living animals, plants, seeds, and wool; and the admission, at very low duties, of wood for building and fencing, and fruit, and provisions generally. This trade, as regards Van Diemen's Land, would have been more considerable, if the Government of that island had met us in the same liberal spirit, instead of increasing the import duties on our produce from 5 to 15 per cent., *ad valorem*, as was done in the course of 1846.

The coasting, and inter-colonial trade, might have been favoured by the issue of droghing licences for small craft, and by not requiring them to take or pay for pilots.

The revenues, from other sources than the customs, have also improved.

Fees and fines in the Supreme Court have diminished, whilst those on registering of deeds have increased. This presents an aspect favourable to the colony.

Licences for the sale of spirits, &c., have increased, from the same cause as affected the import duties on spirits, namely, increased wages, and employment of the labouring classes, caused by the mines, and by the augmented quantity of specie in the province.

The apparent decrease in the produce of "occupation licences," arises from the receipts under that head being now carried to the credit of the land revenue; the receipts and disbursements of which do not appear in this book. They have increased in amount.

The assessments on stock appear to have decreased, but the reverse is the fact. These imposts were late in collecting this year, and a large portion of them were not received into the Treasury until January, 1847.

There were no loans or receipts in aid of revenue in 1846, but, on the contrary, large repayments of debts of former years, and of loans from the land fund to meet them.

In the expenditure, the increase has been principally in an addition to the police force; a second Commissioner of Crown Lands; and in the miscellaneous or contingent disbursements for the police, the hospital, lunatic asylum, and gaol, owing to the rise in the price of food and forage.

In the increased outlay for public improvements, including many items classed as unforeseen expenses; in additional aid towards the maintenance of religion and education; and in the payment of debts.

The charge for the aborigines department appears as a decrease in 1846. This arises from its being defrayed from the land revenue, and not from the proceeds of taxes and duties, &c. The actual outlay has increased with the price of food, &c.

The whole increase, to the ordinary and fixed departments of the Government, has been, for salaries 1011*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, and for contingencies 1091*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* The disbursements, on account of miscellaneous civil services, including, in both years, the debts paid off, exhibit a decrease of 1364*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

Had labour not been so scarce in the province, a much larger outlay on public works would have been made, as the money has been voted for them; but to have forced onward those works, by temptation of higher wages, would only have added to the embarrassment of farmers, and other employers of labour.

South Australia has not contributed anything towards its military defence in 1846.

A small detachment of the Royal Sappers and Miners is stationed in South Australia, under command of Captain Frome, of the Royal Engineers; the Surveyor-General, the non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, being employed in the Survey Department.

Both the regimental and working pay of this detachment are defrayed from the revenues of the province; on which account they are borne on the schedule of the "Establishment."

This detachment has rendered most useful and economical service to the colony; and I consider the outlay for their maintenance one of the best items of the public expenditure. I would gladly see the detachment increased to double its present authorized establishment. I trust that your Lordship will take occasion to make favourable mention of this detachment to the Master-General of the Ordnance; because, from the General Officer in command of Her Majesty's troops in these colonies not considering them in any way under his orders, they are otherwise deprived of the advantage enjoyed by all other soldiers, of having their good deeds brought periodically under the review of a general officer.

Upon the civil establishment of the Government, no additional remarks appear to be called for; all changes therein are reported from time time as they occur.

The population of the province is estimated to have increased in 1846, in white persons, 3433. The census was taken in the early part of 1846; and at the close of the year the estimated white population was 22,460. At the close of 1846 it is stated at 25,893. We have not any means of ascertaining the fluctuations in the aboriginal population.

In the Ecclesiastical Return there has been, as far as the Church of England is concerned, a visible improvement; instead of only one clergyman in the colony in 1845, there are now five, all performing service at different places, where they are located on stipends, besides one acting gratuitously in the district in which he resides.

A church and parsonage at Blackistan, near Mount Barker, have been built, and others are in progress at Gawler and at St. Mary's. The church of St. John, in Adelaide, which was closed for want of an incumbent, has been re-opened by a resident minister.

The Wesleyans have also had an addition to their ministry.

By an appropriation ordinance in 1846, a sum of money was voted by the legislative council to aid in promoting the means of religious observances, and of ede cation. The sum was computed at 2*s*. a head for the entire population of th colony, to be divided among the different sects of professing Christians in that pro portion to their numerical strength, as ascertained by the census returns. The ministers and churchwardens, or other office bearers charged with the secular affairs of each denomination, were appointed trustees for the distribution of the grant according to the wants of the several congregations; and from the reports that have been made to me subsequent to the close of 1846, I have reason to be satisfied that the several trustees have executed their trusts in a manner highly advantageous to the colony.

I am not prepared to advocate this mode of granting State support to religion and education as the best that has been yet devised, but merely as having been strongly advocated by a large portion of the community over which I preside, and as the least repugnant to the feelings of those who deprecate the reception of all State assistance or interference in religious matters. The mode adopted gives State assistance without its interference. The objection to it (on financial considerations solely) is, that it affords no check upon the wasteful appropriation of the public money by the trustees, other than that which public opinion may exercise on the publication of the accounts.

This, however, is an objection to which the expenditure of all church funds, by elected wardens or trustees, is open. The committees composed of the entire body of the ministers and secular officers of each denomination, with quorums exceeding half of their respective numbers, may, I conceive, be properly intrusted with the distribution of the Government grant, given in aid of the resources, at the command of the wardens or trustees of each congregation.

A system of general committees of ministers and wardens would of course be impracticable in a large colony or community, or were such meetings to occur more than once or twice in the year. But it was thought that, in the present state of this colony, the difficulty of distance could easily be overcome.

This grant, for the half year ending 31st March, 1847, amounted to 1100*l*., and if no other benefit has attended it, it has certainly stimulated the exertions of voluntary contributors, towards constructing places of worship and schools; as well as of those who deprecated State support, upon the argument that voluntary contributions would suffice for the object desired.

Of public day-schools, that for the children of the Aborigines at Adelaide, is the only one properly so called, and it is an establishment highly creditable to the colony.

A small one for the natives has been attempted at Encounter Bay, but the attendance has been very unsatisfactory.

The society of Odd-Fellows have a school at Adelaide, which partakes of the character of a public establishment, as far as the members of that society are concerned. I understand that it is very creditably conducted.

The exchange on London is stated in the Return, at page 151, to have been at par throughout the year, such being the rate at which the banks sold bills on London for cash; but the rates at which they purchased bills on London, of undoubted character, varied from 4 per cent. discount in January, to par in December,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

1846, an effect naturally to be looked for from the large increase in the amount of specie in the province.

It is not very easy to estimate, with any degree of accuracy, the amount of coin in circulation in a colony. The Blue Book, of 1845, gives it at 2000*l.*; that for 1846, assumes it at 10,000*l.* The information is procured from the banks, and can only be an approximation to the truth. Not so, however, the amount of specie in particular chests on a stated day.

On the 31st December, 1845, the amount in the banks appears to have been £32,000

In the Government vault . . .	21,000
Add estimated circulation . . .	2,000
Total in the colony . .	£55,000

On the 31st December, 1846, the amount stood thus—

In the banks	£105,000
In the Government vault . . .	73,000
In circulation—estimated . . .	10,000
Total in the colony . .	£188,000
Increase	£133,000

The bank paper, in circulation, appears only to have increased during the year, from 15,000*l.* to 25,000*l.*, or 66 per cent., whilst the amount of specie in their possession has augmented about 230 per cent.

The imports and exports, during the year 1846, show a vast increase of trade. The increase on the former, as compared with those of the preceding year, has been about 78 per cent, and on the latter, about 110 per cent.

The greatest augmentation of exports has been on bread, barley, copper ore, oil, whalebone, and wool.

The copper ore exported is taken at the declared values of the exporters, and amounts to 140,000*l.*, but the collector considers it to be over estimated by probably one-fourth. The quantity is, however, correctly stated, and the raising of it for exportation has been one of the main sources of the industry and prosperity of the colony.

The export of wheat was less than that of 1845, though that of flour was in excess. The quantity consumed in the colony, from increase of population, was of course much greater.

The export of wool appears to have been in unusual excess in 1846, beyond the amount due to the natural increase of flocks. This is owing to part of the clip of 1845 having been shipped in 1846.

The agricultural returns are not less favourable than those of trade. The number of acres in crop have increased from 26,000 to 33,000, of which those in wheat from 19,000 to 26,000. The harvest was a very abundant one; the average yield of wheat is stated at 20 bushels to the acre, whereas that of 1845 was only estimated at 18 bushels: the average price has risen from 3*s.* to 4*s.* 9*d.* the bushel. Large exports from the crop of 1846 have been made in the early part of 1847.

The reaping machine of Mr. Ridley, a colonist of the province, has been in very general use, for without it the crops could not have been got in for want of hands. This vehicle reaps and thrashes at the same time, delivering the grain ready for winnowing. One instance has been mentioned to me of wheat having been, by means of it, gathered and prepared for shipment on the same day. The dryness of this climate at the season of harvest facilitates the separation of the grain from the ear.

From the table of average prices of produce, &c., at page 181, it would appear that wheaten flour has increased in price about 36 per cent; wheat and wheaten bread 50 per cent; whilst stock and butchers' meat, as well as other farm produce, have not sensibly altered in value; nor have tea, sugar, spirits, and tobacco, and such like imported articles of large consumption. On wages the increase is stated at rates which would average about 20 per cent. This state of things is very encouraging to the farmer, and consequently there has been, and is, great in-

ducement for immigrants to cultivate land on their own account, as soon as they earn sufficient to purchase a small piece of agricultural land.

It is not, however, so favourable to the labour-market; the demand for labour for the mines, flocks, and farms being greatly in excess of the supply.

The price of stock and of butchers' meat has been kept down by the importations of cattle by sea and overland, and the same effect has been produced by other imported supplies, which have equalled the demand.

In the returns of 1845, there are given the names of 15 mines opened, of copper or of lead, or both. Since then 15 more have been opened; but the quantity of available labour in the colony has not been sufficient to enable the proprietors of other than the richer mines to work them. In one of the mines opened for copper, gold has been found in small quantities, but in a state of great purity. The lode does not, however, appear to have realized the expectations at first entertained of its value.

Those mines principally worked during the year, are noted in the column of remarks, as are those sold with the reservation of Royalties.

The total amount of Crown lands sold during the year was 59,482 acres, of which 40,000 were embraced in two special surveys of 20,000 each. Both of those surveys were purchased for mining operations.

The gaol continues in the state that it was at the close of 1845. For want of labour in the colony, we have been unable as yet to do more than complete the foundations of the portion still incomplete of the outer wall. I wished to have employed the hard labour prisoners on it, but I was informed that there were legal objections to such measure. I will, however, endeavour to get the work executed as speedily as possible, feeling sure that your Lordship will aid my endeavours towards the completiou of this and many other public works of magnitude and importance, by urging the early shipment of emigrants.

I have endeavoured in this despatch to demonstrate, by proofs not to be contested, that this young colony has the materials for becoming a prosperous and valuable dependency of the empire; and if my humble efforts during the past year have, in the least degree, tended to promote our country's cause, by the development of its resources, I shall be amply rewarded for my labours.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FRED. H. ROBE, Lieut.-Governor.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(No. 28.) No. 40.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Irwin to Earl Grey.

Government House, Perth,
June 30, 1847.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Blue Book for 1846. No opportunity has occurred for forwarding despatches from this Colony since the 18th of April last, when, from some unavoidable delay in the country districts, these returns could not be got ready for transmission.

In pursuance of the instructions of the Secretary of State, I proceed to offer a few remarks on the condition and prospects of the Colony.

Revenue.

	£.	s.	d.
The Revenue received in 1846 . .	8,179	10	2
Exceeds that of the preceding year .	7,479	6	10
	700	3	4

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Expenditure.

1846	7,838	11	8
1845	7,514	10	7

The increase in the receipts has arisen principally from the greater amount of the imports; but to some extent, also, from the alteration in the mode of levying the import duty of 5 per cent. This was formerly charged upon the value of the goods at the place of shipment, but is now charged upon the value in this Colony, which is taken to be the invoice value, with the addition of 20 per cent.

There is no duty on exports from this Colony.

Population, exclusive of the Military.

In 1845 . .	4,108
1846 . .	4,290
Increase . .	182

Which arises almost entirely from the excess of births over deaths. On this subject it may be well to remark, that there are numbers of the Aborigines more or less regularly in the employ of the settlers. In the towns they are chiefly useful in hewing wood and drawing water, and other domestic services, by which they are enabled, by the labour of an hour or two, to procure sufficient food for the day. In the country, their intimate knowledge of the Bush, and their sagacity in tracking animals which may have strayed, render them valuable as herdsmen. They are also, in the absence of other labour, occasionally very useful in reaping. In one district of the Colony, during last harvest, a band went from farm to farm, assisting the Settlers in reaping and housing the crops.

Laws.

During the past year five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, the most important of which was an Ordinance to amend an Act, intituled "An Act for the Regulation of the Pilotage and Shipping in the Harbours of Western Australia." By this Act, and the Regulations which were issued by the Governor, the Ports of Western Australia may be entered by vessels of all nations, free of pilotage and harbour dues; and pilots paid by the local Government have been established at Fremantle and King George's Sound. The Pilotage Regulations formerly in force, although calculated to afford encouragement to individuals, to qualify themselves by their knowledge of the harbours and anchorages to act as pilots, were nevertheless considered to have a prejudicial effect in deterring vessels, in want of vegetables, wood and water, and other supplies from entering our harbours, to the great injury of the settlers, who were thus prevented from disposing of their surplus produce.

The new regulations have been in force too short a time to judge of the effect produced by the alteration of the system.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Perth.

St. George's church, Perth, capable of containing 800 persons; Rev. J. B. Wittenoom, Colonial Chaplain.

A Wesleyan chapel, capable of containing 350 persons.

A Roman Catholic chapel, capable of containing 50 persons.

An Independent chapel, capable of containing 50 persons.

Fremantle.

St. John's church, capable of containing 300 persons; Rev. G. King, Missionary Gospel Propagation Society.

A Wesleyan chapel, capable of containing 200 persons.

Middle Swan and Guildford.

A church at each of these places; Rev. W. Mitchel, Assistant Colonial Chaplain.

Upper Swan.

A church, capable of containing 80 persons, Rev. R. Postlethwaite, Assistant Colonial Chaplain.

York.

A church, capable of containing 100 persons; Rev. W. Mears, Assistant Colonial Chaplain.

Busselton, Bunbury, and Picton.

A church at each of these places; Rev. J. W. Wollaston, Assistant Colonial Chaplain.

On the Murray, there is a small chapel erected at Pinjarra, and another at Mandurah, where service is occasionally performed by the Rev. G. King, of Fremantle.

Albany.

A church is in the course of erection, which will, in all likelihood, be opened for divine service this year; but there is no clergyman, the inhabitants being unable to provide for the support of one, and the local Government have no funds at their disposal for this purpose.

The distance from Sydney with which place the communication is as unfrequent as with England, puts it out of the power of the bishop there to superintend the Church Establishment in this Colony. The urgent necessity for the appointment of a bishop, or at least an archdeacon, was brought under the notice of your Lordship's predecessor, by Governor Hutt, in his Despatch, No. 5, of 30th January, 1845. The friends of this Colony in England are now making efforts by subscriptions in money to provide a fund for the endowment of a bishopric; and Lord Stanley having permitted the local Government to accept the surrender of lands subscribed by the colonists for the purpose of aiding in this object, and to grant remission certificates instead thereof, in order that these certificates may be disposed of to the best advantage by the trustees of church property; subscriptions of this description have already been made by the settlers to a considerable amount, and more are expected to be received.

No. 6, of the 22 Feb., 1844.

Education.

A sum of 200*l.* was voted by the Legislative Council, to establish schools throughout the Colony. At Perth, a graduate of Cambridge has been engaged by the local Government at a salary of 60*l.* per annum for a school there; 40*l.* is paid to a schoolmaster at Fremantle, and the remainder of the sum voted is intended to be appropriated amongst the following places, in proportion to the number of scholars—Guildford, Upper Swan, Bunbury, Albany, and York. There are several other schools both at Perth and Fremantle.

Imports and Exports.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The Imports for 1845 were .	20,350	0	0
„ „ 1846 . .	25,959	4	4
Increase . .	5,609	4	4

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The Exports for 1845, were . .	13,353	12	0
„ „ 1846 . . .	20,222	15	4
Increase . .	6,869	3	4

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The imports of the Colony during the depression of 1845, had fallen below the wants of the community, and the increase in this particular may be looked upon as an evidence of the improving condition of the settler. But I would particularly call your Lordship's attention to the increase of the exports as a favourable symptom of the Colony's progress; and I trust the current year will place in a more striking light the efforts of the settlers by this means to relieve them from their embarrassments.

The principal increase arises under the head of wool; but a new article of export has been found in the sandal wood of this colony, which promises to prove ere long of the first consequence. This tree chiefly grows in the country beyond the Darling range, at a distance of about 60 miles from the coast, and though somewhat thinly scattered, nevertheless extends over a large tract of country, and may be procured in considerable quantities. The settlers bring it to the seaport, at a cost of from 6*l.* to 8*l.* per ton weight, to the merchants, who in their turn have disposed of it to masters of vessels at 12*l.* per ton. It is, however, understood to sell at Hong Kong, and in the Chinese markets, for 30*l.* per ton. Since its value has been ascertained, the settlers have reaped considerable benefit from this article, as it is now readily purchased by the merchants, or taken in exchange for stores. In the list of exports 32 tons only appear, but a considerable quantity has been collecting, and the importance which, in the present state of the Colony's affairs, the commerce in this article has assumed, will be readily perceived from the fact that in another week about 250 tons will have been shipped since the beginning of 1847, and it is expected that 500 tons will be exported before the conclusion of the year.

During the past year also, a part of the timber contracts to be supplied for Her Majesty's dockyard at Chatham, which is alluded to in Mr. Secretary Gladstone's Despatch, No. 33, of the 14th January, 1846, was prepared, but could not be shipped until the commencement of the present year. The quality of this shipment was said to be excellent and should it be approved by the authorities at home, and permanent arrangement made for the supply of Her Majesty's dockyard, the prospect thus opened would be most encouraging to the settlers.

The anxiety of parties interested, to find a convenient and safe harbour for the shipment of naval timber, led to the examination of a portion of Mangle's Bay in front of the reserved town site of Rockingham, as reported in my predecessor Colonel Clarke's Despatch, No. 38 of the 1st of August, 1846. This anchorage, which is distant about 12 miles from the port of Fremantle, is sheltered from every wind, and vessels of the largest burthen may be loaded with naval timber with facility from a short jetty, which is intended to be run out into deep water. The town site of Rockingham has since been surveyed and laid out, and a portion of it thrown open for location to the public. Allotments of 5 acres each, on the beach, in front of the town site, have been reserved, but are intended to be leased to the public at 5*l.* per annum. With the view of encouraging the immediate commencement of so desirable a location, I have for the present year considerably reduced the price of town allotments, directing them to be offered at 5*l.* and 10*l.* each. In order to improve the town, and to facilitate the shipment of the timber which abounds in the neighbourhood, I have directed half of the proceeds of the sale of town lots to be expended in the erection of a jetty, and in the construction of a road leading thence into the interior.

Agriculture.

Sheep and cattle are steadily increasing.

Stock of all kinds now amount to 116,570 head.

There is also an increase in the number of acres under cultivation, although the settlers in some of the districts are suffering severely from the want of labour. The total number of acres cultivated amounts to 5767$\frac{3}{4}$, of which 299$\frac{1}{4}$ are devoted to the vine and olive, which are everywhere found to grow with great luxuriance, and from the former of which the settlers have manufactured a very agreeable wine, which on some farms, to a great degree, has superseded the use of ardent spirits. I enclose a copy of the Report of the York Agricultural Society for the last year. The settlers in this district have

paid increased attention to the breed of horses and cattle; and the improvement of the district, and the prospects of the settlers are reported to be steadily progressing.

Mines and Fisheries.

The whale fishery has been successfully prosecuted during the past year in the bays of the Colony, and oil and bone have been taken to the amount of 4795*l.*

As yet no mines containing metalliferous ores have been ascertained to exist of any value; but indications have been discovered of lead, copper, and zinc, on the lands in the neighbourhood of the Canning River, and search is now making, under the superintendence of an experienced geologist, with some prospects of success. Specimens of copper have also been forwarded to England, to ascertain the value ofthe ore, before any steps are taken to work it.

In the months of August and September, a considerable bed of coal was discovered by the Messrs. Gregory, cropping out from the banks of the river Irwin, in seams of from 4 to 6 feet in thickness, of excellent quality, as reported in my predecessor's despatch, No. 6, of 4th January, 1847, and in my despatch, No. 6, of the 19th of February, 1847, submitting an application from Mr. Gregory, for a reward for the discovery of it. The Irwin is nearly 200 miles north of Perth, and the distance of the bed of coal from the sea-coast is about 39 miles. With the exception of the distance there is no material obstacle to the shipment of the coal; but from the dip of the seam, however, and the existence in some parts of the adjacent coast, of the same sort of red sandstone that is found above the coal, it is confidently hoped that it may be found re-appearing at a more convenient distance. As respects the probability of rendering this discovery available, I have already reported that Champion Bay, in that neighbourhood, affords shelter for vessels during greater part of the year, and that to the southward of the point which forms that bay, there is a small harbour protected by a natural jetty, and having twelve feet water on the bar, which appears to be completely sheltered at all seasons. This harbour has been identified with Port Grey. Within 10 to 15 miles to the north of Champion Bay, lies the commencement of a fine tract of grassy land, of not less than 100,000 acres, as stated in Messrs. Gregory's report. This portion of the Colony was traversed by Captain Grey, and was by him named the province of Victoria; and is described, in his journal, as the most fertile district of North-Western Australia.

Connected with the extension of steam communication to this Colony, it appeared of primary importance to ascertain if possible, the existence of coal along the coast. With this view, I despatched, on the 2nd instant, the colonial schooner "Champion," with a party under the direction of the Surveyor-General, accompanied by Doctor Von Sommer, the geologist above-mentioned, to Champion Bay, with instructions to examine the country lying between that part of the coast and Gantheaune Bay, to the north. One of the chief objects of the expedition, will be the inspection of a part of the country so favourably spoken of by Captain Grey; and I trust the return of the "Champion," before this despatch is sent off, may enable me to report that the expedition has been attended with successful results.

Land Sales and Grants.

The sale of crown lands for cash, has been to a small amount during the past year; whilst for remission certificates, there have been disposed lands to the amount nearly of 1,500*l.* These tickets, however, cannot long continue to form an obstacle to the sale of land for a money price, as the total amount remaining in the market does not much exceed 4,600*l.* The sum applicable to the introduction of labour is, therefore, totally inadequate to the wants of the settlers. In order to obviate this pressing evil, I have directed the colonial schooner to proceed to Singapore, to procure thence a supply of Chinese labourers, who are reported to be a valuable class of men, well fitted for that purpose, as well as for household servants: and as it is understood that free labourers can be procured at Van Diemen's Land at moderate wages, it is my

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

intention, at the conclusion of the winter season, to direct the colonial schooner on her way back from Sydney, where she will be despatched for the arms and accoutrements which have been sent thither for this Colony, as mentioned in your Lordship's despatch, No. 2, of 6th March, 1846, to call at Hobart Town, in order to bring from thence as many as may be required by the settlers, to the extent of the accommodation of the vessel.

From the whole of the above report, it will be apparent to your Lordship, that notwithstanding the disadvantages of limited capital and population under which it labours, from the almost total discontinuance of immigration to its shores, the progress of the Colony, during the past year, has been both steady and encouraging.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. C. IRWIN.

Encl. in No. 40.

Enclosure in No. 40.

YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SIR, To His Excellency Governor Irwin, Patron.

WE, the Committee of the above Society, have the honor to lay before your Excellency, as our patron, this our Seventh annual Report up to the 1st of January last, on the agricultural proceedings and prospects of the Colony, which we trust your Excellency will find in as prosperous a state as could be expected under the many disadvantages we have had to contend with.

We have much pleasure in stating that the crops of last harvest were not so short as had been expected, in consequence of the great scarcity of rain, and where they had been sown in time, say April or May, were as productive as those of any former year. We trust that this most satisfactory proof of the great advantage of early sowing will induce our brother settlers to get in their corn much earlier than is the general custom of this district. The sample has in general been good, and in consequence of using blue-stone as a pickle, little or no smut has been seen.

Sheep, we regret to say, are not in such good condition as they have been in former years, in consequence of the long-continued dry weather, but still keep on steadily increasing. Our exports of fat sheep have been small, through the great absence of shipping to carry them away, though profitable markets have been within a few weeks' sail of us. In no way does the settler suffer more than from the great want of shipping enterprise among the merchants or traders here; in fact, the great majority of stock that has been carried away has been taken in the South Australian vessels. Our last clip has been rather light in comparison with former years, but well got up, and we trust that our wool-growers will still continue to improve in this most essential point. From the account sales of the wool shipped by the "Unicorn," the year before last, the great advantages arising from having it well got up were strongly manifested, for although the sale was a bad one, those wools which were well got up brought as high a price as those of the former year by the "Halifax." Scouring fleece wool does not seem to answer, as it does not bring as high a price as that washed on the sheep's back, in proportion to the expense. But we would strongly advise the scouring of all the locks and the refuse wool which lies about the shearing-house, and are, we regret to say, too often allowed to go waste, as they have sold in England as high as 1*s.* 1½*d.* per lb.; and this operation can be performed on the farm at a very little expense. We recommend that more attention should be paid to the judicious crossing of the different breeds of sheep; where the wool is short and scanty, long-woolled rams should be put in, and where coarse, merino rams,

The numerous dogs of European breed in possession of the natives, are now become a source of great annoyance and apprehension to the flock-owners, and if something is not done to check this evil in time, it will get beyond control. We, therefore, most respectfully suggest, that some legal enactment be made preventing persons from giving dogs to the natives, and that some immediate steps be taken to get rid of those in their possession.

We suggested in our last year's Report, that something ought to be done on the part of the Government to prevent persons from setting fire to the bush or grass, as such serious losses had occurred to several persons at harvest time, but we regret to find, that as yet no efficient steps have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such a serious evil. Very great difficulty is experienced by the flock-owners in procuring shepherds, and we earnestly hope something will be done to procure an importation of labour as speedily as possible.

Horned cattle, we are happy to say, are daily improving, the breeders now finding it their advantage to purchase or hire well-bred bulls, high-bred cattle being the best for the dairy, and being fit for the butcher at an early age. An importation of fresh blood is much required,

otherwise we shall be breeding too close. The local Act against bulls running at large has already proved its good effects, and we hope it will be attended to by all breeders of stock. Through want of proper paddocks bulls are obliged to be kept up at an enormous expense, and until we get a better supply of labour we have no chance of remedying this evil. In this as in every other branch of farming we seriously feel the want of an adequate supply of labour.

Horses are also improving, more attention being paid by the breeders to the selection of suitable stallions, so far as the few good ones we have admit of a choice. A handsome, compact Arab stallion, of high caste, was introduced into this district last year by Mr. Thomas Browne, of Grassdale, and is likely to be brought here again this year by the same gentleman. Good horses are in demand at advanced prices on last year's quotations. None have been exported lately, in consequence of the high shipping charges, and the great expense of sale at foreign markets. Although the *Margeaux* blood most satisfactorily proved at our last annual races its superior qualities, still an importation of fresh blood is much required. Here we again suffer from want of paddocks, as it is utterly impossible to breed horses to advantage without them. Great inconvenience is experienced in consequence of horses and cattle not being generally branded, and considerable difficulty is found in disputed cases, in ascertaining to whom the animals really belong. We therefore most respectfully suggest that an Act be passed, making branding compulsory.

Wheat.—No considerable increase in the cultivation of this essential article of food has taken place this last year, from the impossibility of obtaining hands for the cultivation of new lands.

Barley has been rather a bad crop when not sown early, arising from the absence of rain for such a long-continued period. We would strongly urge our brother settlers over here to sow it, if possible, in April, particularly the English variety; Cape may be sown as late as May. All barley for seed should be pickled with blue-stone, the same way as wheat. Hay has been a very light crop, no rain having fallen from the time it was sown until October. This also should be sown early: we would strongly recommend the sowing of wheat for hay, as it makes the most nutritious fodder, barley hay being very apt to give the animals eating it sore mouths, which makes them fall off in condition. Refuse corn should not be sown, as it is sure to make the land foul, whereas the hay crop is what should be looked to for clearing the ground.

Vineyards are still increasing, the short trial made giving the most encouraging results. Even as severely trying as this season has been, the plants, and even cuttings, have stood uncommonly well, and, in general, grown luxuriantly, producing a highly flavored fruit. This confirms our former opinion, that our soil and climate are peculiarly favourable to the growth of the grape, and the producing a fine flavoured wine.

It gives us much pleasure to state, that the general improvement of the district continues steadily progressing, as also the prospects of the settlers, notwithstanding the many difficulties they have had to contend with. Labour has been very scarce, and ruinously high, necessarily preventing the employment of it to advantage, and no community can prosper where a profit does not arise from the employment of labour; it may exist, but can never progress rapidly.

The land regulations, and the Squatting Act, have also much contributed to the embarrassment of the settler.

The annual importation of lads from the Parkhurst Institution has also ceased; it was the only source from which we derived any supply of labour, and we trust you will use your influence to have it renewed; but we respectfully suggest to your Excellency, as we had done to our late lamented patron, the urgent necessity of removing the depôt from the neighbourhood of Perth, as the vicinity to a town is certain to prevent the reform of the lads, and also tends to encourage those placed out in the country to behave badly, so as to be sent back to Perth; it is notorious they will do any thing, or suffer any punishment, so as they can only get back to town.

We return your Excellency our sincere thanks for so kindly becoming the patron of the Society, and we rest assured that you will endeavour, as far as it is in your power, to promote its views and interests.

Signed by order of the Committee,

W. Burges, Hon. Secretary.

York, April 28th, 1847.

MAURITIUS.

No. 41.

MAURITIUS.

(No. 63.) No. 41.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. Gomm, K.C.B. to Earl Grey.

My Lord, Mauritius, March 6, 1847.

I have the honour to submit my general Report upon the state of this colony throughout the last year, and upon its condition and prospects at the present hour.

1. In its financial department, my Report will be found highly satisfactory.

The customs' branch, the receipts of which produced in the preceding year 129,398*l.*, has in this last yielded 146,024*l.*, exhibiting an increase of 16,626*l.*

That of internal revenues, has advanced from 76,706*l.* to 77,926*l.*

The taxes specially applied to defraying the cost of immigration, have been also productive largely beyond the measure of the preceding year; those of 1845 yielding 38,583*l.*, of 1846, 62,390*l.*; showing an increase of 23,807*l.*

The balance of revenue over expenditure of 1845, was 16,816*l.*; that of 1846 has increased to 50,598*l.*, applicable to the further purposes of immigration and prosecution of important public works, long delayed and much needed; and also to the reduction of impositions, weighing most heavily upon the mass of the community.

The gross value of colonial exports within the year, exceed that of its imports, by no less a sum than 479,415*l.* by the official returns; the former amounting to 1,622,495*l.*; the latter to 1,143,080*l.*, forming a striking contrast to the relative amount of these two valuations in the five years immediately preceding.

In 1841, the value of imports exceeded that of exports by 341,517*l.*, in 1842, by 7,883*l.*, in 1844, by 109,947*l.*, in 1845, the balance turns in favour of the colony, amounting to 99,618*l.*, so greatly exceeded as above shown by the returns of the last year.

The intricacies of the rupee question, and embarrassments brought upon the monetary circulation of the colony, and permanently influencing it, through the mercantile body finding their account in a departure from the provisions of the Royal Order in Council, prescribing the legal valuation of that coin with relation to British silver; form matter which, I am aware, is under the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury in all its details.

The risks also, attendant upon making the colony wholly dependent upon India for its metallic supply, (which would be virtually the result of the present arbitrary valuation being adopted by Government,) on the one hand, and the inconvenience to the public and facilities afforded to fraud on the other, while the twofold valuation continues to subsist, the one having currency alone in the Government offices, the other universal in all the ordinary transactions of life. These considerations have been attempted to be laid open in their several bearings in various despatches by me, and most recently in No. 14, of the 15th January last, and suggestions submitted with much diffidence, for the redress of this anomalous state of the island currency.

2. The anticipation expressed in my last annual summary, that the sugar crops of the present year would much exceed that upon which I was then reporting, itself a most abundant one, have not been disappointed. The crop has in fact, already exceeded that of last year, by no less than 30 millions of pounds, or 15,000 tons, up to the corresponding period of last year, thus forcibly witnessing, not only to the continued favour of the seasons, but to the increasing efficiency of the labour in employ; since numerically the increase has been inconsiderable.

50,000 tons.

But the proceedings of the year have been characterized by results of more than transitory importance, and unduly to be estimated by its actual proceeds.

The extension and improvement in the machinery of the mill, and in the various processes for bringing the raw produce of the soil to perfection, has answered all the anticipations hazarded in my Minute of the Council of the 17th March, 1845, and the results have been proportionate.

At the exhibition in November, of samples of colonial sugars, on the requisition of the Agricultural Committee of the Society of Arts and Sciences, the result of the competition with choice samples from Bourbon and Calcutta, was decidedly in favour of the colony. Science has brought its aid vigorously into play throughout the course of this year. And I feel justified in my expectations that the ground work has been laid in the colony, through such auxiliary enhancement of its great natural resources, to prepare it for coping with any difficulties that may reasonably be expected to present themselves in the shape of foreign competition through coming years.

For Sir W. M. Gomm's Minute, 17th March, 1845, *vide* Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 8th Aug., 1845, No. 641; page 23.

There is, moreover, a disposition to economy and an improved system making progress in the interior management of estates which cannot fail to be attended with the most beneficial consequences, immediate and prospective.

3. The condition and prospects of the industrial classes in the colony, native and immigrant, are subjects that have been largely treated in various despatches submitted by me in the course of the year, at the instance of your Lordship's predecessors and your own.

The progress in wealth, and in the ordinary decencies of life, among the former, their claims to confidence attested in numerous instances adduced, as of their holding places of trust upon the estates; punctuality in payments of debt, growing respect for the ties of marriage and baptism of their children, and for the obligations and observances which constitute the sanctities of the home:—all this will, I trust, have been satisfactorily introduced to your Lordship's notice by me.

I have endeavoured also to show in earlier Despatches of the year, particularly in No. 5 of 7th January, No. 156, and 157, of 24th and 25th August, and No. 174, of 7th September, how I conceived that the indisposition, and even repugnance to return to labour on the plantations, manifested in such higher degree among the emancipated population of Mauritius than among the same classes in our West Indian colonies, which had undergone the same revolution in their respect, might be sufficiently accounted for without attaching blame to either party interested, without imputing to the former proprietary body, on the one hand, a harsher exercise of authority over their bounden dependents, before the change, and a greater degree of indifference to their welfare subsequent to it; or on the other, a stronger constitutional apathy and perverseness of disposition, than is inherent among races of their brethren translated to the western hemisphere, and their progeny.

For Sir W. M. Gomm's Despatch, 7 Jan., 1846, No. 5, *vide* Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 26th Aug., 1846, No. 691; Part I., p. 349.

For Sir W. M. Gomm's Despatches, 24th and 25th Aug., and 7th Sept., 1846, Nos 156, 157, and 174, *vide* Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 27th April, 1847, No. 325; pp. 211, 218, 253.

I sought to account for it in geographical position of the island facilities presenting themselves, right and left for dispensing with former services suddenly withheld, whether by caprice or the indulgence of an ultra spirit of independence; proximity to the shores of Madagascar, India, China, (comparatively) all able and ready to furnish the alternative; resources not within the reach of Jamaica, for instance, and promptly relieving the proprietary body from the obligation of courting the good offices of the refractory native labourer at any cost or sacrifice, as there.

I further sought for it among these latter, in the low moral and religious condition in which emancipation found them, advanced in the colonies of British origin, to a state of comparative civilization before the change, through the pastoral tuition of a Christian ministry sedulously devoting itself to the promotion of their interests, temporal and better.

Thence the negroes of Jamaica found no difficulty in dissevering the idea of labour for hire, from that of slave-toil, at the outset; a connexion which rests as a spell over the mass of the emancipated population of Mauritius up to this hour.

But it will be broken, and its influence will be weak over the offspring of these. The Roman Catholic priesthood no longer rest content with enrolling the young into their church by baptism, and requiring from the adult an

MAURITIUS.

observance of stated religious rites. They have numerous schools for the instruction of the former throughout the island; and their ministry, composing the great majority of its religious establishment, are assiduous in their attentions to the latter. Our own are far from indifferent to, or unaiding in the good work, and in the numerous schools under the supervision of Govenment, sound morality and the principles of Christian living are earnestly inculcated.

The results of the recent census, will also have relieved the *colony* of the stigma which appeared to attach to it so long as the charge of vast diminution in the numbers of this class, since the period of emancipation remained unrefuted. These returns will have shown that the mortality among the emancipated class, has averaged little above 3 per cent. throughout the ten years that have elapsed since they became free; and that no less than 10,000 of their class were existing in the colony when the census was taken, born subsequently to that period.

There can be no doubt, as I have affirmed in earlier Despatches, that they are at this hour a thriving and improving class of the colonial population, and in great measure, filling a middle station between the common field labourer and easy employer, as small independent cultivators, as artizans, overseers, foremen of workshops, and others, with fair profit to themselves and advantage to the community.

It is only with regard to the first head of this classification of industry, under which a very large proportion of the negro population have enrolled themselves, that the Government is inclined to look with an eye of apprehension for the permanency of their welfare.

There are countervailing evils to which the proprietors of these small independencies are annually exposed; and the scourges of drought and tempest fall heavily upon many, confiding in the wonted happiness of their climate and boon fertility of their soil; and thence habitually improvident. From the visitation first named, the colony has had a full reprieve of several successive years; but the latter has within the same space of time been sensibly experienced, and has very recently been brought into prominency of effect.

The hurricane of January and February, from the ravages of which the colony has been again mercifully preserved, spread a flood of fourteen days' duration, with scarcely an hour of intermission over its entire surface, which while it heaped abundance along the cane fields, seriously injured the small provision grounds of the negro settlers in many quarters.

With respect to the immigrant Indian population, my Reports have been necessarily more frequent and more amply detailed throughout the year; showing, I trust satisfactorily, a growing disposition among them, to settle down upon the estates, and to enter into bonds of mutual confidence with their employers, far preferable to those of legislative obligation and penal constraint.

The measures in progress under your Lordship's sanction, bid fair to improve and strengthen these wholesome dispositions and relations, and to produce results, widely distinct from pecuniary profits, while in no sense incompatible with these; on the contrary, still better ensuring them, whether accruing to the labourers, growers, exporters or contributors of capital for their realization. The formation of a steady and sufficient labouring population resident in the colony, thriving among themselves, morally advancing and furnishing the best security and encouragement to honourable and judicious mercantile speculation and enterprise.

Despatch No. 173, of 5th September, *vide* Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 27th April, 1847, No. 325; page 172.

These people will also have been relieved, in the eyes of Her Majesty's Government, from the sweeping charges of grave moral delinquency brought against them in the mass, by zealous parties in England, strangely misinformed with regard to their actual position in the colony. And their employers, and the authorities to whom the superintendence of their welfare is committed, rescued, I trust, from merited reproach, had such charges been found capable of proof, or had they not been successfully rebutted.

The temperance and moderation observable both among the Indians and native black population in seasons of periodical festivity and excitement is something very remarkable; and, as I have observed in a Despatch reporting the results of the joint revels of the new year and of "Yamsé," vainly to be

looked for in any of the communities of Europe; and most certainly so in either of the British islands.

4. The great subject of immigrant augmentation has lost none of its engrossing interest since the date of my last general Report of the 9th March, 1846; and so rapidly have my particular Reports connected with it succeeded each other in the interim, that my present statement must, of necessity, consist chiefly of a summary of these.

Vide Reports on Blue Books, presented by Command, July, 1846, p. 141.

The same pressure bearing upon the Government at the instance of particular parties, to induce it to concur in measures which would compromise it with the rest of the community; assistance demanded, involving an expenditure, the funds for meeting which are notoriously not forth-coming; the strenuous labour of the passing hour—the paramount object with applicants; the well-being with an eye to more than wages actual and prospective of those by whom the wealth of the land is amassed and brought to account, entering largely into the views of the Colonial Authorities as of the Home.

Hence, as I have endeavoured to explain in an earlier despatch, No. 156, of 24th August, the antagonistic character of the relations which, I apprehend, must more or less prevail in this colony, at all times, between its Government and influential parties who have large ventures embarked in its concerns, and have thence a full claim upon all the consideration and countenance of Government that can be accorded, short of that which would involve manifest disregard or the wilful sacrifice of other interests equally committed to its charge.

For Sir W. M. Gomm's Despatch, 24th Aug., No. 156, *vide* Papers ordered by the House of Common to be printed, 27th April, 1847, No. 325; page 211.

It is not surprising that this diversity in the main objects held in view by the governing party and the governed should have become more intensely manifested as the measures reached their consummation at home, which the parties concerned with reason regarded as detrimental to their immediate interests, however short of their apprehensions the injury may happily fall in the sequel.

Accordingly my successive Despatches will have furnished Her Majesty's Government with a series of remonstrances, and of demands made upon me, all involving more or less of difficulty in complying with, or in recommending to the favour of Her Majesty's minister; all embodying general statements more or less at variance with the showing of authentic documents produced by me for their refutation.

Thus when a growing insufficiency of labour at command has been insisted on, it has been shown from the published tables that the produce of that labour has been marvellously on the increase throughout the last three years, figuring thus:

	lbs.
Total to 31st December, 1846 . . .	77,032,288
„ to 31st December, 1845 . . .	56,705,914
„ to 31st December, 1844 . . .	47,645,907

That of the present year exceeding that of the last by 20 millions up to the same date of 1845, and by 30 that of 1844.

When the restlessness and caprice of the Indian is inveighed against, the returns forwarded have produced vouchers under the hands of employers themselves, for more than one-third of these being in continuous engagement annually renewed, many in the third, and no small number in the fourth year of service on the same estate and with the same employer.

Where exorbitant demands on the part of the labourer on account of wages and provisions are pleaded, the circumstantial returns forwarded show the moderation of these on both counts.

To conclude my observations on this important topic, I would again record the small surprise that it has occasioned with me to find parties both in England and Mauritius representing great interests which they are apprehensive of seeing put to the hazard by the course of events, pursuing their objects calculated, as they conceive, to diminish, if not to neutralize these dangers with a tenacity and an earnestness wholly incompatible with the regard which, differently circumstanced, they have not failed to evince for other interests with which their own are bound up in the social economy, and which should

MAURITIUS.

not be sacrificed, even for the satisfaction of their own presumed or actual needs.

It is only Government, I apprehend, that in such junctures can be expected duly to estimate the degree of protection which should be extended specially to each concurrent interest in the commonwealth; and to regulate its own councils by the consideration that the predominant interests are not the only ones worthy to claim its care; that in the instance of Mauritius, the welfare of the colony is not all comprised in the prosperity of its merchants and planters; and that the prosecution of their immediate interests may be indulged to excess: that the proceeds of general taxation are not to be applied to their exclusive benefit; and that the welfare of the community is not sufficiently consulted when it is only sought to be comprised in the enjoyment of a reflection from theirs.

On the contrary, I am of opinion that direct relief should be afforded as often as the means are shown to be forth-coming, to interests not directly connected with agriculture, but which are notwithstanding sorely taxed for its advantage.

5. There is a class of this varied community of Mauritius to whom I have not specially drawn attention in my several general Reports hitherto forwarded—a class advancing in consideration, social and political, whether viewed numerically, or with respect to property shared and individual opulence,—that of the coloured population.

A jealousy has always subsisted between this party and the original proprietary body of colonists; and I wish I could report that I saw influences in operation that should tend, even by slow degrees, to its extinction; but it is rather an aspiration than a hope with me at this day.

In the meantime this party is fully sensible of the advantages secured to it under British rule and institutions, and shows every disposition heartily to assert the one and to cherish the other.

The prominency with which it has stood forward in the cause of the language and important reforms in the judicial institutions of the colony, furnish evidence of this spirit really existing, however animosity to former superiors in the days of servitude may be mixed up with, and bring on adventitious strengthening to the feeling, as it undoubtedly does.

It has been my object, as your Lordship will have seen, as opportunities presented themselves, to advance meritorious members of our society of this class, to places of honour and of public trust. Thus two gentlemen have been appointed, one in succession to the other, members of the council of Government; and the public has derived benefit, in both instances, from such appointment.

Others have been selected to fill offices under Government to which their professional and general qualification recommended them.

6. The ministration of both Churches, English and Romish, has been actively discharged throughout the year; that of Rome particularly stirring.

Indiscretions engaging more or less of public attention have occasionally resulted, and invasions have been from time to time represented; and whatever diversity of opinion there may be respecting the degree of administrative attention fitting to be paid to encroachments of the order noted, of the amount of zeal in operation among the ministry of this branch of the church catholic in the colony, there continues to be none.

The lower orders of the black and coloured population have been for many years past indebted to the services of a minister not in holy orders, but inculcating genuine Christian principles through his unostentatious ministration and pastoral teaching.

I have brought the claims of this meritorious individual and of those assisting him in his ministry to your Lordship's attention (in Despatch, No. 16, of the 16th January); and I trust I shall have succeeded in interesting your Lordship in his cause and theirs, and shall ultimately obtain for them the object of their suit at your Lordship's hands; and I cannot entertain other than a fervent hope, that through the exertions of the different orders of Christian ministration in the colony, directed hardly in concert, but concomitantly, to the same great end, an amount of good will be secured to the community throwing into

shade whatever connected with it is imputable to the imperfection inseparable from human agency, wherever or however officiating.

Of the progress to completion of additional church accommodation recorded as on foot in my last general statement, I have now to report favourably. Of the two buildings dedicated to the services of the Church of England in the districts of Plaines Wilhems and Moka, the former has been opened and officiated in since October last, the latter is on the eve of completion; the Roman Catholic buildings dedicated to the same sacred purpose in the Poudre d'Or district and at Mahebourg are also rapidly advancing.

The Church of the Establishment in Port Louis has been considerably enlarged and better proportioned to the increasing wants of its congregation, while I am sanguine in my hopes through the representations preparing for submission to your Lordship of the extent to which individual contributions are available for the purpose, the garrison and town of Mahebourg may ere long have the benefit of a Church of the Establishment, so much desired there.

Much will still remain to be done, daily becoming more needed, in behalf of the emancipated classes and Indian immigrant population; and as these latter show a disposition to settle down in the colony the excuse for abstaining from making these exertions on their account, is daily becoming weaker.

Much as the colony has benefited from bringing the whole process of immigration under the control of Government thus securing to it a more available class of labourers than it found itself provided with through the process of private speculation, I have no hesitation in regarding as the most important feature in the change, the largely increased introduction of families, females and children, who have hitherto returned in very moderate numbers to their homes, while the early departure of the men has afforded such repeated subject for regret in my periodical Reports.

To encourage the continued residence and final settlement of these families in the colony, should be the conjoint and studious aim of the Government and of the agricultural colonists; the former contributing, by its facilities opened for education, and the formation of societies among themselves under inviting protection, the latter, by kindness of treatment and humane observances with a view to moral tuition of the young, at least, which, while they really involve no material sacrifices on the part of the superior, are very effectual for attaching the dependent by ties more durable than those of contract before the Magistrate.

To conclude my observations under the head of religion and education, I would earnestly repeat to your Lordship my solicitations earlier made, for an augmentation to the officiating ministry of the National Church for the benefit of members actually in communion with her in the colony, and for the service of her additional places of worship actually completed and completing, and in readiness for sacred occupation.

I would with equal earnestness renew my representations made in Despatch No. 125, of 4th July last, that no further delay should take place in including the Church of the Establishment in the colony under one or other of the dioceses of the Cape of Good Hope or of Ceylon, since it cannot but be apparent to your Lordship, as already represented in the Despatch above referred to, that the National Church must suffer some disparagement in the presence of other professions of Christian faith in the colony so long as her sacred edifices remain — however unavoidably — unconsecrated; her rural cemeteries the same; her children unconfirmed in their faith; and her discipline defective, through lack of a commissioned and appointed head for the orderly maintenance of her polity.

7. The reform of the code of criminal procedure in the colony, so long needed, is actually before the Council at this hour, embodied in a project of law which promises to bring about important ameliorations in this branch of administration.

Connected with it, and consequent upon its enactment, will be the introduction of trial by jury.

The reform in the whole Establishment of the police so long delayed through its necessary connexion with the law now before the council, is at length proceeding with satisfactory dispatch.

MAURITIUS.

8. In my general Report of last year, I expressed an anxious desire for an extension and improvement of the Public Civil Hospital in its several compartments.

Vide Reports on Blue Books, presented by Command, July, 1846, p. 145.

This work has not proceeded with the despatch that I anticipated and hoped for, but the professional parties engaged in the investigation of details necessary to be mastered for determining the course to be pursued most for the advantage of the public have given their earnest attention to the whole matter in the interim, and I am about to submit to your Lordship resolutions of the council for effecting this most desirable object.

Besides ensuring more ample and better situated accommodation for the inmates of an hospital, strictly applied as such, the plan will provide a spacious asylum for the indigent and infirm; and connected with it will be a provision for the more considerate and suitable reception and treatment of patients labouring under that most distressing of human infirmities—the alienation of mind.

A female ward in the Civil Prison remains unsupplied, a serious imperfection in this important branch of legislative provision.

I have repeatedly engaged the attention of the Council for its prosecution, and trust soon to lay before your Lordship a report of its being in progress.

The roads of the colony are not in the state at this hour in which the public communications of a busy community ought to be found and maintained.

Measures are concerting for the more efficient supply of means to this important branch of the public works. Bridges also are in progress of construction, the necessity for which has been growing with increasing industry, and only left unsupplied in past years owing to the exigencies of the colony in other essentials, and the scarcity of labour at command.

The census recently completed must be rated among the most important public works of the year, regarded both with reference to the diligence and accuracy with which it has been compiled, and to the favourable showing which it exhibits affecting the population generally, and particularly that portion of it, respecting which much delusion was abroad.

9. The health of the colony has been signally preserved throughout the year, and the evidences of its stability among the labouring population are before your Lordship in my Returns periodically transmitted.

Small-pox, the scourge of past years, may be pronounced to be at this hour extinct in the colony.

10. Thus, every requisite which should enter into the composition of a flourishing colony in a favoured climate, is found to be at this hour happily claimed for Mauritius. The same elemental phenomena, which have again recently devasted the neighbouring island, passing only with increase to the wealth of this, her public annual revenue greatly exceeding her expenditure; her exports, valued in 1841, at 886,332*l.*, and in 1844, at 1,021,745*l.*, amounting this last year to 1,622,495*l.*; her emancipated classes manifestly advancing in civilization and prosperity; her large immigrant population from India showing the best dispositions extensively to settle down and form an integral portion of a community, in which they find their condition bettered and their welfare secured, not more by positive institution than by the self-interest of parties who profit from their services; her coloured native population rising in consequence, and strengthening in attachment to the Crown under which they so prosper; true religion strengthening her influences through the medium of the language, which is her most faithful and universal expositor among the heathen of all denominations over the earth at this day, and soliciting at the hands of Government the means of still further extending these over the large mass of heathen idolaters introduced from abroad; the criminal laws undergoing revision, and assuming a character corresponding with such connexion, and their administration more duly provided for than heretofore; while the great British institution of "Jury" is preparing to take its station in the body of the court, to the wholesome displacing of the radically defective and mischievously working system of assessor-ships on the bench; all these and other healthy indications are patent and broadly before the world; but they are not more so than those of individual

distress and property forfeited; the insolvent retainers buoyed up heretofore by annual advances no longer accorded, or in such restricted measure as has brought about the same results with them. Numerous estates have thence forcibly changed hands through legal procedure within the period included in my Report, and that of several preceding ones, many of the number considerable properties; and extensive individual embarrassment among the agricultural and commercial bodies has formed the topic of numerous addresses forwarded to your Lordship through my hands.

The solution of this apparent mystery and diversity, and utter disparity of results flowing from such antecedents having place elsewhere, must only be sought for, I apprehend, in the causes assigned to them conjecturally in my Report for the last year; in the fictitious character generally of property in land in Mauritius; in the extent to which it is mortgaged and debt-laden in the majority of instances, exceeding sometimes double and sometimes treble its real value; confiscated, therefore, in substance, if not in form; the procedure depending upon the convenience of the party accommodating; and I am only doing justice in recording, that a remarkable forbearance and consideration is frequently exercised by those parties.

Highly calculated as such occurrences are to awaken the solicitude of Government, and prompt it to devise measures of alleviation, I am aware of none within its legitimate province to originate without prejudice to others, beyond the lightening of fiscal burthens, a relief of which the whole community partake, as often as the opportunity offers; and the exercise of its authority for restraining from speculations, corporate or other, inviting at the outset, but fraught with peril to all, and disastrous to parties over whom difficulties have already gathered.

And thus it has happened that the great London houses, whose original aim and whole scope of object when investing their capital in the colony, I presume to have been, to derive a corresponding benefit and interest from these investments and supports furnished to proprietors of the soil, incompetent with their own means to work out all the profits of which their estates were susceptible, have, owing to a variety of circumstances, become the virtual proprietors of these estates, with all their liabilities to mischance, elemental and other, attaching to them in first degree; and their agents, commissioned to superintend their concerns in the colony, have thus become the principal, and even, in numerous instances, sole administrators of these estates; and it is to satisfy the demands of the all but expropriated planter, and of the adventurous agent conjointly, and the just expectations at the hands of the latter, of the London investers of capital, cumulatively, that the local government is so importunately pressed from season to season, and found wanting in the colony and at home.

Of the three classes of requisitionists enumerated, the intermediate party would seem to suffer least embarrassment from a visitation of untoward circumstances, if a judgment may be formed from the success with which numbers of it have been observed to advance their station in the colony in seasons of reputed general difficulty, as within the compass of the last four years, and the handsome competency with which rumour gives out others to have taken leave of it, after no very protracted sojourn in it.

11. In so important an acquisition to the British Crown, under whatever point of view regarded, while all due consideration is entertained and exhibited by Government for hereditary prejudices and genuine ancient associations, it is gratifying to witness among the majority of the intelligence, opulence, and rising manhood of the island, a growing leaning towards British institutions in preference to earlier traditions; and the same predeliction manifesting itself for British connexion generally, which undoubtedly and necessarily prevails among the mass of the community. Influences there are of long standing, which have had a sensible effect in retarding this progress in a right direction for securing the permanent interests of the colony; the local press, and one other influence (as it has been for some time past exercised in the community), adverted to at the close of my Despatch, No. 19, of the 29th January of last year, the chief.

Not behind in pretensions common to the same species of influence exercised over the opinions of much larger and weightier communities, the some time

MAURITIUS.

established press of this island has been uniformly distinguished by a certain *esprit de corps,* traceable to the origin and native bias of its direction, not untinctured with a semblance of ferocity at times with which it systematically assails and traduces every professed aim and projected measure of Government with an eye to the public interest, not caught at through the medium exclusively of banking and mercantile speculation, or trenching upon earlier traditions, with a view to the substitution of something better and more soundly characteristic of a British colony.

As when, at the commencement of 1843, an unflinching opposition was presented to the demand for a suspension of cash-payments by the banks (those respectable but speculating companies having been found to have succeeded in securely lodging between 60,000*l.* and 70,000*l.* worth of their depreciated paper in the coffers of the Treasury), and for an issue of Government notes from 30,000*l.* to 35,000*l.* monthly, through an unlimited term, for the nominal relief of the planters, but *bonâ fide* for the convenience of parties who sustained them, and who informed the Government "that they paid the labourers upon three-fourths of the sugar estates in the colony."

Again, when an agricultural bank was set on foot as an alternative, threatening to fasten confusion irretrievably upon the monetary concerns of the colony, however convenient a device at the moment to parties projecting.

The same with regard to the reiterated demands for a lavish increase of immigration, without the ostensible means of defraying its expense.

And, lastly, when Government has come to the determination of asserting its due preponderance in the courts of law for the national language, after subscribing to the convenience of former associations through a term of 37 years fast fulfilling, of possession.

There is a growing prospect of this journalist dogmatism being successfully met, and upon its own ground; and the public, British at heart, cannot but benefit from the exposure of so much professional imposition daily and habitually practised upon its credulity.

And I rejoice, finally, in the determination, repeatedly promulgated by Her Majesty's Government, steadily to regard Mauritius as something more than a profitable sugar island, and even than a maritime stronghold of England, and envied port of refuge in her Indian seas; and that, while not regardless of mistaken views of self-interest, nor dull to its one-sided representations, they envisage her as a field specially set apart for the exercise of the paternal offices of Government—watching with more than a common solicitude over the interests of many thousands, thrown by the force of circumstances under their special supervision; and whose welfare—it is casting no disparagement upon the fair dealing of those who profit by their labours, but imputing to them the natural bias common to all mankind—the influence of self-interest, to predicate would not be so adequately provided for through any instrumentality short of the indifferent and impartial over-watching of Government.

An interest not less intense, nor less urgently called for by the occasion, is manifested by Her Majesty's Goverment in the cause of those thousands who, subject to no visitation of oppression, social or other, are yet below the races of the same origin inhabiting other British possessions, in the scale of civilization and social position generally—the emancipated classes of the colony.

It is, moreover, highly gratifying to witness, that public attention is drawn at this day, in an unusual degree, to the fortunes of the island; its resources and embarrassments—its lucrative prospects and growing British tendencies, political and social, constituting it one of the most interesting, as it is, beyond question, one of the most valuable and important possessions of the Crown.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. M. GOMM.

CEYLON.

(No. 19.) No. 42.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Sir J. Emerson Tennent, administering the Government of Ceylon, to Earl Grey.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, 10th May, 1847.

My Lord,

In transmitting the statistical Returns which form the Blue Book for 1846, it is necessary that I should accompany them with a Report, rather more extended than usual, on the present state of the colony and its future prospects; not merely as regards the success of European enterprise, but as to the probable influence which the influx of European settlers, and the extension of their operations, may exert on the character and material prosperity of the native population and the island generally.

The period is now fast approaching for testing the result of the great experiment, which has been for some years under trial, of converting Ceylon from a comparatively unproductive into a producing colony; important inferences are deducible from the observation and experience already acquired; and although these may be as yet insufficient in themselves to warrant an affirmative prediction as to the ultimate issue, even the negative conclusions which have been established cannot fail to be valuable for future guidance.

As regards the Returns which I have the honour to send, I have reason to fear that under some of the heads (though not the most material ones), their details are not altogether to be relied on. Those of finance, and the more important departments of revenue and expenditure, are, of course, prepared with indispensable accuracy; but as regards the calculations for which the Government agents have to rely on the native head-men and officers, they are not, I fear, brought together with that precision and care which give value to such documents. For example, as regards the Returns of—

Section I.

Population.

Those which have been transmitted to me for 1846 are a mere transcript of those for the preceding year; no systematic census having been actually taken since the year 1843. Even the Returns then made are, I fear, but little to be depended on as to their fidelity, not merely from the continued existence of the superstitious aversion, common to all Orientals, to "the numbering of the people," but owing to a latent suspicion that every inquiry of this kind, directed by the Government, has some reference, immediate or remote, to taxation, or the increase of the public burthens.

The Returns exhibit a total of 1,421,631; and, adding a moderate per centage for the natural increase since the census of 1843, the population may be safely taken at one million and a half.

But so imperfect is our means of information, that I have found it impossible to ascertain the exact proportion of Europeans (exclusive of military), who are now settled in the island; nor does any attempt appear at any time to have been made to arrive at an accurate result as to the industrial and vital statistics of the island, the relative numbers employed in each branch of manufactures and other occupations of the people, or the fluctuations occasioned in the several districts by the extension of cultivation and the arrival of European settlers.

Information of this kind is indispensable in forming any safe conclusion as to the probable effects of contemplated changes in taxation, or any similar economical arrangements; and the procuring of an accurate census embracing these details must be an object for the early attention of the Government.

Again, as regards the table exhibiting *births*, *marriages*, and *deaths*, during the year 1846, its materials profess to be extracted from the current records of the native Thombo holders, or registrars; but on examination, I find that it is a mere transcript of the Return made for the year 1845, and, in fact, that in every year since 1843, the same figures have been made to serve, as the totals in each are repeated without the variation of a unit.

I trust to be able to enforce greater vigilance in the preparation of the

CEYLON.

volume for 1847; but the native assistants, on whom the Government agents are dependent for procuring this information, are so little to be relied on, either for accuracy or energy, that the portions of the Blue Book prepared by their instrumentality must always be more or less defective.

The sanatory condition of the colony during the year has, as usual, been influenced to a considerable extent by the periodical rains, and in its results has been unsatisfactory, owing to their irregularity. Like the two previous years, 1844-5, there was a striking departure from the normal state; the monsoons having appeared too early, and the rains fallen in too small quantity to be conducive to the ordinary process of vegetation. The effects of this have been evidenced not only on the salubrity of the season and general health of the colony, but in the quality and amount of the crops. In some of the lower estates especially the berries of coffee have been deficient in weight, and a considerable failure was experienced in the rice harvest.

Fever, dysentery, and cholera, were also more than ordinarily prevalent; the two former chiefly infested the belt of undulating land which connects the low country with the first swell of the hills; a locality analagous to the proverbially unhealthy *terriani* of northern India, districts which are similarly situated.

Cholera manifested itself to a formidable extent at Jaffna, and was more or less destructive at Kandy and Colombo, and small pox was prevalent, though not to an unusual extent. The total number of cases reported by Dr. Roe, the officer at the head of the medical department, was as follows:—

	Remained from 1845.	Admitted in 1846.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.
Cholera	100	6,338	2,557	3,881	..
Small Pox and Chicken Pox . .	188	1,917	1,683	399	23

The Returns of *vaccination* during the year exhibit a gratifying result, both as to the extent of the process and the reduction in the amount of mortality from small-pox. Vaccination was introduced in Ceylon in the year 1802, and the number successfully operated on between that date and the year 1834 was 822,321 persons. Considerable difficulty was experienced at the introduction of vaccine practice, as variolous inoculation had preceded it, and much mischief ensued from the latter; the disease having been introduced where it was previously unknown, many lives sacrificed, and a universal prejudice against any interference with this formidable disease was engendered in consequence, especially amongst those classes who were incapable of discriminating between inoculation and vaccination. So long as the extension of the latter was entrusted to Europeans alone but little progress was made; but in the year 1837, the then Inspector General of Hospitals, and principal Civil Medical Officer, Dr. Stewart, succeeded in organizing a plan for training a permanent corps of native vaccinators, who, after due qualification, have been employed on a moderate salary in every district, and the experiment has been productive of the happiest results. In many places the operation has been so extensively resorted to by the natives, that the practitioners have been enabled to be reduced in number, and placed in charge of more extended districts.

The parts of the island to which vaccination has as yet been imperfectly extended are those extensive tracts which lie to the north and east of the island, which are little known to or frequented by Europeans, and in which even the native population is scanty. Generally speaking, however, the ravages of small-pox have been strikingly reduced, and its most formidable appearances now are chiefly amongst the lower orders of Moormen in the towns and villages, whose religious prejudices in favour of fatalism restrain them from resorting to this providential precaution.

The following is a return of the number of persons vaccinated in 1846, as compared with the previous year:—

	Vaccinated.	Discharged.	Failed.	Absent.
1845	60,243	42,580	8,743	8,920
1846	59,403	43,164	7,523	8,716

Religion.

In the department of religious instruction, I am happy to have it in my power to report an increase of strength and success during the past year.

In the despatch which accompanied the Blue Book for 1845, well-merited testimony was borne to the zeal and ability displayed by the Bishop of Colombo, who had just then entered on the discharge of his momentous duties. The undeviating vigilance and devotedness with which he has since addressed himself to advance the usefulness of the Church of England have not been without its effects in stimulating the clergy of other denominations to increased exertion. At the same time, I have no reason to apprehend that the emulation thus excited may be heightened to rivalry, or manifested otherwise than in a mutual recognition and cordial co-operation for the wider-spread diffusion of that pure Christianity, the ministers of which are alike borne on the ecclesiastical establishment of the colony, and their temporal concerns, so far as they come within the cognizance of the Government, administered impartially under one ordinance applicable to all, and securing to each denomination a share in the liberality of the Government, proportionate to its wants and its own exertions for their supply.

The sedulous observance of this policy must lead to the happiest results, by exhibiting to a heathen people the unity and power of Christianity, whilst any departure from it would have the same unhappy tendency in Ceylon which has been evinced elsewhere, to deter from conversion, and to perplex and discourage by polemics those who who would otherwise have embraced and held fast the simple truths of the Gospel.

Of the reformed religion, the most numerous sections amongst the Europeans and their descendants, and the wealthier classes of the Singhalese, are those of the Church of England, the Wesleyan Methodists, the Baptists, and the Presbyterians both of the Church of Scotland and the Dutch Church. The latter having been the established form of worship during the period when Ceylon was a colony of Holland, the Dutch consistories have still been left in the possession of the churches, and the most beneficial impulse has been given to the extension of Christianity amongst the natives by the liberality with which they have at all times given the use of their buildings to the clergy of the Church of England. In the central province of the island a large proportion, perhaps the majority, of the Europeans employed in the superintendence of coffee cultivation are Scotchmen and Presbyterians; and a most important point would be gained if the places of worship (of which there are lamentably few throughout these districts) to be hereafter erected by aid from the public treasury could be opened on the principle which obtains in some of the West Indian and Australian colonies, of their joint use by the ministers both of the Churches of England and Scotland. Indeed, I have reason to fear that, on any other principle, it may be difficult to find the necessary funds for the erection of separate houses of worship for each. And even in the event of the proportion of the cost being provided which is required to be subscribed by private liberality to establish a claim under the Ordinance for a contribution from the public treasury, the necessity will be created of making grants from the colonial revenues for two places of worship in instances where one alone might be rendered sufficient.

As regards the progress of the Church of England, three new churches have been sufficiently advanced during the year 1846 to admit of their being opened for the solemnization of Divine worship; and one, Trinity Church, at Colombo, has lately been consecrated by the bishop. The new church at Kandy is far advanced towards completion, but, owing to injudicious management on the part of the Committee, the cost for architectural display has been much greater than was justified by the demand for church accommodation throughout the colony. A small church has likewise been licensed at Kotmalie; another has been commenced at Nuwera Ellia; and others are proposed at Badulla, Rambodde, and Putlam. Two in the district of Bulatgamme, at Ambagamoa and Gallanagalla, are to be served by Mr. Simons, the recently appointed colonial chaplain, on his arrival, jointly with that in Kotmalie. In the neighbourhood of Colombo it is probable that several new churches will be built by native Christians. Applications have been made to the bishop for clergymen from several very populous districts, and he hopes, through the aid of the two Church Missionary Societies, to be enabled to encourage so very unusual and com-

CEYLON.

mendable a proposal on the part of the native Singhalese. Within the same period, the ministrations of the Church have been carried to many of the out-stations; Putlam, Calpentyn, and Chilaw are served by one missionary; Bellegamme, Tangalle, and Hambantotte have been newly attached to the mission at Matura; Batticaloa is visited from Trincomalee; Manaar and Mulletwoe from Jaffna. In the interior, Kornegalle, Matele, Cabragalla, Gampola, and Puselawa, have all been periodically visited by itinerant clergymen, the extent of country being so wide, and the residents so scattered, that in no other way, and by no other means, can they be reached.

The past year cannot, therefore, be deemed an unfruitful one, either in effort or consequence; experience has been gained, without any great expenditure of means; and one result has been to show in which districts the continuance of their efforts is practicable, and in which not so, without more aid than is at present available for so good a purpose.

As regards the *Church of Scotland*, a minister has, within the last year, commenced his duties in Kandy, where ample funds have been raised for the building of a church which will, I trust, be shortly completed. And I am not without hope that places of worship will be provided throughout those districts of the Central Province, where the majority of the European residents on the coffee estates are Scotch Presbyterians, but are at present entirely deprived of the services of a minister of their own persuasion.

As regards the advance of conversion amongst the native population, although there is an external appearance of progress, there is reason to fear that but little way has been really made in the establishment of a firm conviction of the truths of Christianity. And it is a lamentable fact that multitudes who outwardly profess to be Christians and attend on the ordinances of religion, are equally attached to the superstitions of Buddhism, and resort to its temples and priests upon every emergency.

At the same time the great body of the natives exhibit no antagonism to Christianity, such as prevails amongst the Hindoos and Mahommedans; with them the chief difficulty to be contended with being their apathy and indifference to religion of all kinds. The work of conversion is, however, progressing, not rapidly perhaps, but sufficiently to check despondency and animate zeal; and I cannot resist the conviction that it must be from the spread of education, and the influence of enlightenment, that we are to look for an opening for conversion and the ultimate extension of Christianity.

Education.

Estimating the population of this island at a million and a half, the portion receiving education from approved sources does not exceed one-eightieth of the whole.

In all the Government schools, in which there are upwards of 3,000 pupils, and a few of the mission schools, English is taught as well as the vernacular languages; and small though the number receiving this the most desirable form of education may be, yet there is too good reason to apprehend that at present English education can scarcely be carried with advantage much beyond its present extent. The character of the natives is such, that it is only in localities where there is European superintendance that the duties of a teacher of a language of which the parents of the pupils are ignorant, can be performed with any degree of attention or success.

It is also deserving of remark that besides Government and the missionary bodies, there are a great many village and temple schools conducted by Buddhist priests and others, in which the pupils are taught to read and write the vernacular in such numbers that these attainments appear to be as generally possessed by the Singhalese as in the ordinary communities of Europe. The number, therefore, who are in a condition to profit by useful books in the native languages is very different from the small fraction of the population which I have given above as receiving education. But it is matter of deep regret that the books which form the curriculum in the priests' and private schools are wholly of a legendary character, puerile and unprofitable to the last degree, and in a language, too, very different from the vernacular. It is also a melancholy fact that there are scarcely any good and useful books to be found in the Singhalese language. To the department of translation,

however, the school commission is now applying more sedulously than formerly, and a sum of 468*l.* has been estimated for the service of the year in this department.

In connexion with vernacular education, the school commission, which I am happy to say, under the presidency of the bishop of Colombo, continues to give its services in the cause of education as formerly, has represented to me the expediency of doing more in the cause of vernacular education; and it has been agreed that 30 new vernacular schools shall be established this year, if practicable, for which a sum of 1,142*l.* has been voted. This will be conducted by masters, who during the last two years have been under training in the native Normal Seminary, an institution which is admirably conducted by the Rev. Mr. Kessen. Here 40 young men and 10 young women, all Singhalese, receive a suitable education, and adequate subsistence money, at a cost not exceeding 750*l.* per annum. The establishment of these schools will commence in the month of June; and I trust the result may be such as to justify the opinion which is gaining ground among thinking people, that education in the vernacular, especially of females, is likely to do more for the improvement of the character and usefulness of the natives, than attempts to impart a knowledge of English in places where there is no demand for it, and where the little that is learned at school is soon forgotten on leaving it.

At present about one-fifth of the entire sum devoted to educational purposes (viz. 12,600*l.*) is apportioned for education in the vernacular. But if the experiment of this year prove successful, it will probably lead to the substitution for the more remote and least successful English schools of vernacular schools, afterwards it is to be hoped to be in turn replaced by English, when the standard of intelligence shall have been raised.

In the remarks which accompanied the Blue Book of last year, an apprehension was expressed that the education aimed at in some cases was too high, considered in relation to the state of educational destitution generally prevailing in the colony, and the few openings which it presents for young men of classical or philosophical attainments. An enquiry has since been made on this subject, and the result is, that the present state of things in this respect has been shown to be very unsatisfactory. But instead of proposing to lower the standard of education aimed at, it seems far more desirable to endeavour to organize it, so as to supersede the necessity of sending young men to Calcutta, to study theology and medicine for the service of this colony, as has been usual for some time past, at great expense to Government, and with very indifferent success. Theological education might, ere long, be successfully undertaken in Colombo under the auspices of the bishop, and your Lordship will have been made aware by Sir Colin Campbell's Despatch which accompanied the Supply Ordinance for the present year and elsewhere,* of the unanimous opinion of the Legislative Council, that the education of medical pupils for the service of the colony might, with economy and advantage, be hereafter conducted under the superintendence of the medical department, and with the aid of the numerous professional gentlemen, military and civil, who are now to be found at Colombo, a suggestion which only requires your Lordship's sanction to be carried into practical effect.

Section II.

Agriculture.

In Ceylon agriculture, in all its branches, must be regarded as an art almost unknown. Notwithstanding all its advantages in variety of soil, graduations of temperature, and adaptability of climate, the cultivation of rice may be said to be the only successful tillage of the natives. And yet with the favourable circumstances alluded to, and the expanse of surface to be applied, it is impossible to foresee the extent to which the productions of nearly every other country might be domesticated and extended throughout this island. In the highlands and mountain regions, and particularly in the wooded valleys and open plains which are found at an elevation of from 3000 to 7000 feet, there is an encouraging field for the introduction of most of the *grains and vegetable productions of Europe*, and from the limited experiments which have been made up to the present time, there is good reason for believing that more extended operations would be attended with very beneficial results to the colony.

* See Despatches No. 3, of January 4, 1847, and No. 26, of Febrnary 10, 1847.

CEYLON.

In this conviction, the Government has had numerous applications for lands in the hills suitable for the rearing of stock and European crops, for which a ready market would be found in the coffee districts and the towns and villages of the central province; and the intimation of your Lordship's readiness to permit the leasing of lands for these purposes is likely to give a rapid extension to such undertakings.

Under the head of agriculture, however, the most important topic is that of the cultivation of

Coffee.

The extent to which the production of this article has increased within the last 10 years is very remarkable. The export to England was—

In 1835	1,870,143 lbs.
In 1845	16,657,239 lbs.
And in 1846	18,350,341 lbs.

Coffee has at all times been produced in small quantities in Ceylon, off trees planted by the road-side, or round the dwelling-houses of the natives; but it was never systematically raised by them as an article of commerce, nor was its cultivation attempted on a great scale by Europeans till within the last few years.

Native Coffee.

is still brought to market in small quantities, but during the last year its export has greatly diminished, owing to its indifferent quality and low price in the London market. This is ascribable to the inaptitude of the native character for conducting its cultivation with energy and success. Their plants are never pruned or manured, and the produce is usually sold on the tree by anticipation, to Moormen pedlars, who hasten to gather it before it is ripe, lest they should be pillaged if left to arrive at maturity. The fruit is thus neglected during its growth, and being collected prematurely it never attains its due size and weight, in addition to which it is so injured subsequently in colour and appearance, by its careless and imperfect preparation for the market, that it seldom brings a price more than half that of plantation coffee, and its quantity is gradually decreasing.

The following table of prices of native coffee in the Colombo market during eight years, taken at the maximum for parcels prepared for shipment, will at once show the gradual fall which has taken place:—

1840	90*s.*
1841	68*s.*
1842	57*s.*
1843	49*s.*
1844	55*s.*
1845	42*s.*
1846	40*s.*
1847	28*s.*

In 1840 bills on London were at a premium, but by 1842 they were at 5 and 6 per cent. discount. In 1844, when the price of coffee improved, the exchange rose to 3 and 4 premium, but again declined at the end of 1845, and has remained so ever since. The fact of bills being at a discount enhances the price of money, and buyers are, therefore, unable to pay so much for native coffee, but when bills become at a premium the very reverse is the case. At the present moment prices for coffee have rallied a little, but in the event of any interference with the differential duties at home, the greater part of the native coffee lands will assuredly go out of cultivation in consequence of the fall which must then take place in its price. This will of course lessen our shipments, and the prospective effect will be a partial improvement in the price of plantation coffee, by which planters will benefit.

A few Singhalese and native headmen in the employment of Government have, within the last few years, established small coffee plantations, in imitation of the English, but as the situation and soil were not chosen with skill or experience, they have not been eminently successful, a circumstance much to

be regretted, as discouragements which would scarcely affect a more energetic race, are all but fatal to enterprize amongst the apathetic natives of this island.

The quantity of land brought under *coffee cultivation by European capitalists* since 1834 will probably approach 100,000 acres; but lands intended to be so employed, and now more or less in process of preparation, have been purchased from Government to the extent of 400,000 acres.

In almost every particular the cultivation, even on this extended scale, has been essentially an experiment. The possibility of procuring labour, the means of transport, the quality of the crop, and its favour in the home market, were all points to be ascertained by experience; and in addition to these, the climate itself, the nature of the soil, the geniality of the temperature, the treatment of the plant and its probable duration, have all been matters of uncertainty and speculation; as no other producing country presented a direct analogy either in the character of these requisites or in the proportion of their combination.

Soils in Ceylon which appeared favourable were attempted, but abandoned after proofs of unsuitability. Apparently luxuriant localities were cleared and planted, but only led to a similar result, as forest land alone has hitherto been found to answer the purpose; the richest grass land in its immediate vicinity failing to produce a crop of coffee; and even forest land, where it lies over clay or any impermeable basis, has been proved unfavourable to the more delicate plant.

Again, rich forests have been cut down in the lower ranges of hills and converted into plantations, but though the coffee tree grew luxuriantly and rapidly, it failed to yield fruit in proportion, and speedily ceased altogether to bear, demonstrating the necessity of altitude and its accompaniments of moisture and temperature.

Observing that native coffee grew best under the shade of other trees, and that in Java and elsewhere, plantations are so formed; shade was at first resorted to in Ceylon on the larger plantations; but contrary to calculation and example, the result was unsatisfactory, and the trees were removed, frequently to the destruction of the plants beneath them.

A combination of rich soil, a lofty elevation, a warm sun and regular rains have been now ascertained to be the main desiderata; but even when these are apparently combined, the estates on different aspects of the same mountain, though with equal soil, and to all appearance alike in climate and temperature, have been found to exhibit totally different results; those to the north-east and south-west, having the full advantage of the rains in the two monsoons, whilst those of the opposite extremities are partially deprived of it. Again, some estates, with every favour of altitude and moisture, are swept by untimely winds to the destruction of the trees, and in some districts, which are affected by only one monsoon, and lose the benefit of the other, the coffee though in external appearance equal in every particular to the best, is found so deficient in solidity, after being cleared of the pulp, as to require one-third more by measurement, to make a given weight, the difference being nevertheless chargeable with a due proportion of every attendant expense.

Experience alone, sometimes at variance with theory and calculation, has demonstrated that all these, and an infinity of other and minuter particulars, each more or less affecting the cost of production, and the quality and price of the produce, are incident to particular localities, and the discovery has naturally led to the total or partial abandonment of ill situated estates, and proportionate extension of those positions ascertained to be more favoured, and as the gross quantity of land, already brought under coffee cultivation, or purchased with a view to it, bears but a small proportion to the great extent now demonstrated to be suitable for it, but hitherto unapplied, there is every reason to conclude, not merely that an enhanced value has been given by the experiment to those situations which enjoy the requisite combination of advantages; but that these are of so considerable an expanse as to present an ample field for investment, and to supply the fullest demand which is likely to arise in the European market for the coffee of Ceylon.

During the year 1846, and the early part of the present year, many serious anxieties served to disturb and partially to check the extension of coffee cultivation; concurrently with the unexpected rise in the value of money at home,

CEYLON.

which led to a serious diminution in its introduction in the colony, apprehensions were entertained of an immediate alteration in the differential duties on foreign and British colonial produce. The operations on almost all the estates were contracted in consequence, and the sales both of government forest-land, and those portions cleared and partially planted by private parties, were almost suspended. Other local difficulties also came for the first time to be injuriously felt; the influx of labourers from the Malabar coast, on whose assistance the estates are absolutely dependent, instead of being greater than usual, in order to meet the demand created by the greatly increased and increasing quantity of the crop, fell considerably below the average amount, owing to causes which have been more particularly detailed in my despatch of the 21st April, No. 6.

Estates remote from the high roads, and not accessible by bullock-carts, felt the utmost difficulty in getting their produce to market. And invariably the fact was made apparent, that even where plantations were open to the most frequented high roads, the produce had so rapidly and prodigiously increased, that all the bullock-carts in the island were insufficient to bring the crop to the coast in proper time for its shipment to England.

Out of this mass of embarrassments arose two projects of great importance to the colony, and on the success of one or both of which its future progress and prosperity must be mainly contingent.

The Ceylon Railroad.

The number of bullock-carts employed on the Kandy road, although trebled within the last four years, are still found insufficient for the planters' wants. Even whilst I write (May, 1847) it is calculated that with all the available means of transport kept constantly at work on the main roads, it will still require a period of four months longer, to bring the coffee of 1846, from the interior to Colombo, whereas looking to the approaching unfavourable weather, the whole of it should have long since been in store there, and the greater part already shipped for Europe. Many mercantile firms have still to ship two-thirds of their crops, and those two-thirds must necessarily be deteriorated by 5 to 10 per cent. in addition to the interest at 9 per cent. on the value of the produce thus detained; in addition to which as the season advances, shipping is becoming scarcer, and freight rising day by day.

It was a foreshadowing of these coming embarrassments which led to the formation in 1845, of a provisional committee, for the purpose of organizing a railway company for Ceylon. Various lines of road have since been surveyed, and a favourable one selected, along which it is stated by the engineer of the company, that the railway may be carried from the coast at Colombo, to the central capital at Kandy, in the heart of the coffee districts, at a gross outlay of 800,000*l.*, including several costly bridges and an extensive viaduct. It is suggested, however, that the more expensive portion of the work at the Kandy extremity, where the line begins to ascend the hills, should be delayed, and only those portions more easily accomplished finished in the first instance, so as to give about 65 out of 80 miles, for an outlay of about 500,000*l.*; the remainder to be completed hereafter, and in the mean time the ordinary vehicles might be employed at both ends of the line.

The whole of the scrip is said to be taken up, but it is doubted if all the holders in England would at present respond to a call, though all those who have an interest in the colony would assuredly come forward to complete the undertaking, as they are well aware that, as a certain means of conveying produce from the interior to the port of shipment, as well as of keeping the central province always regularly supplied with the staple articles of food, and thus ensuring cheap living to the labourers on the various estates, the railway is of first importance to the colony.

Conveyance Company.

Second only in importance to the railway, is the Ceylon Conveyance Company, projected a few months since by the leading merchants and planters of the island, impelled by the absolute impossibility already alluded to in getting their crops down for shipment. It was quite evident that the stand still for the agency of the future railway would have been not less unwise than to have

hoped for the native proprietors of carts and cattle to meet the wants of the times, and double their establishments. Convinced of the necessity for immediate and strenuous efforts being made, a provisional committee was formed, a prospectus issued, and within a very short period, 200 out of 240 shares have been taken, chiefly by the planters themselves, and those interested in estates; a meeting of the shareholders has been held, and a permanent direction formed. The Company is progressing, and with every prospect of success. Indeed it can scarcely be otherwise, for so large is their interest in coffee estates of most of the shareholders of the Company, that their own produce alone is amply sufficient to employ the establishment of the Company to a considerable profit, even allowing for lower rates arising from their competition with the native carriers. Their intention is to import bullocks from India, build carts of a peculiar construction, and organize a regular line of communication between Kandy and Colombo, the distinguishing feature of the undertaking being to supersede the long and tedious journeys now made by one pair of oxen from end to end of the line, whereas the conveyances of the Company will be expedited from stage to stage, by relays of cattle, thus reducing the time consumed from eight to ten days, to two or three, and securing the coffee from pillage and deterioration during its present tedious detention.

Simultaneously with these efforts to facilitate the means ofcarriage, a material reduction has taken place in the outlay on estates for management, salaries and other incidental expenses; confidence is being gradually restored; capital has become rather more abundant; the prices of Ceylon coffee have materially improved in the English market; and I have reason to believe that after passing through the ordeal of 1846, the cultivation is now in a healthier condition and with better prospects of permanent soundness, than it was at the close of 1845.

The character of the Ceylon produce is also rising rapidly on the Continent, as well as in England; and I have just heard of a considerable order for coffee on French account, now executing in Colombo; the first, I believe, that has yet been shipped from the island for that destination. But unfortunately, as few French vessels touch here, this coffee has to be shipped in the first instance to Pondicherry, and will thus reach France, burthened with extra charges for freight and insurance.

Sugar

has been attempted to be cultivated on a considerable scale in Ceylon, but as yet with only problematical success. Between the year 1837, when the first estate was opened, and the present time, some 10 or 12 plantations have been attempted, and capital applied, varying in each case from 5000*l.* to 25,000*l.*; but even the most promising of these is still but experimentary, and most of the others have been abandoned.

It seems probable that the most judicious means of treating the soils peculiar to this island have not yet been discovered; the estates attempted in the alluvial soils and near the banks of rivers have been hitherto the most promising, and next to them, those in the moist lands which had formerly been employed in the cultivation of rice. The plantations in elevated situations have all been more or less unsuccessful, and even the finest forest land seems speedily to lose its richness after yielding one or two crops of canes. The plant rises with great luxuriance and apparent vigour, but the juice, when expressed, is found to be deficient in saccharine and chrysallizable matter.

Improved treatment, and the use of manures may, perhaps, remedy this defect; but the latter is difficult to procure, owing to the limited use of cattle in agriculture, and the great expense attendant on all artificial substitutes.

There are still many unattempted soils in the unexplored parts of the island which may exhibit a different result, but up to the present time, sugar has not been an encouraging speculation, and the island is still dependent for its own consumption on the annual supplies from the other British possessions. These are, to some extent, displaced by the native growth, but only in the inferior qualities, and in situations where the cost of carriage places the imported sugar at a disadvantage compared with the price of that grown in the interior.

The Cocoa-nut Palm.

The cultivation of this tree has, of late years, become as important as an article

CEYLON.

of commerce and export, as it has always been as an article of food and home consumption to the inhabitants. During the last six years, between 4,000 and 5,000 acres have been planted by Europeans, and land suitable for this purpose is still in demand. The produce of these 4,000 acres may be estimated at 4,000 candies of copperahs,* capable of yielding 550 tons of oil, and this at a very moderate calculation. These new estates lie chiefly in the districts of Negombo, Jaffna, and Batticaloa, and when the addition thus made within so short a period is taken into consideration along with the prodigious extent of native plantations previously existing, which extend in a belt along the western coast of the island almost from south to north, and on the east as low down as Batticaloa, an idea may be formed of the prodigious capabilities of Ceylon in this one article now rising into so much demand in Europe. Large establishments for crushing the oil by steam have been opened at Colombo, where it is shipped to England, for the manufacture of candles by compression.

By the recent improvements in cultivation introduced by the English speculators, the trees are now beginning to yield fruit in the fifth year, whereas native plantations seldom bear before the ninth or tenth. Unfortunately the years 1845 and 1846 have been characterised by unusual drought in the low countries, and the cocoa-nut crops has been so deficient in consequence that the export of native oil has seriously declined, but is certain to revive. The consumption of the nuts for food has likewise greatly increased, owing to the influx of Malabar coolies; and as the demand for this purpose must always be steady, the cultivation of this important tree may be looked on as one of the safest investments in Ceylon.

The export of *Coir* (the fibre which lines the husk of the cocoa-nut), and its manufacture into ropes and cordage, have simultaneously increased. But the rudeness of the process, and the want of proper machinery, must always be a check on its improvement and extension. The subjoined return shows the export of cocoa-nut oil and coir for each year since 1837, and under the former head exhibits the diminution I have alluded to as occasioned by the recent droughts.

STATEMENT of COCOA-NUT OIL and COIR exported from Ceylon in the 10 years ended 1846.

	COCOA-NUT OIL.						COIR.								
	Quantity.		Value.			Duty.				Quantity.			Value.			Duty.		
	Gallons.	Casks.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		Cwt.	qr.	lb.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1837	638,677	8,976	28,334	3	11	708	7	2		36,737	3	4	8,140	17	2	203	10	6
1838	242,680	284	16,653	6	1	416	6	8		24,895	3	14	9,290	10	11	232	5	4
1839	357,543	..	26,596	16	3	664	18	6		22,195	1	0	7,741	13	11	193	11	0
1840	475,742	..	32,482	16	4	812	1	6		23,440	3	24	7,399	1	9	184	19	7
1841	321,966	..	24,061	16	4	601	11	0		21,643	1	2	7,130	15	6	178	5	6
1842	475,967	..	34,242	11	7	856	1	4		26,130	3	26	10,162	1	7	254	1	1
1843	726,206	..	43,873	17	9	1,096	17	0		22,187	1	7	9,118	16	10	227	19	6
1844	443,301	..	24,066	15	9	601	13	6		25,977	0	25	9,704	6	0	242	12	2
1845	282,186	..	15,945	1	10	398	12	7		19,540	2	0	8,255	8	0	206	7	9
1846	123,981	..	7,939	6	7	198	9	8		23,197	2	19	8,724	13	10	218	2	4

Cotton.

The cultivation of this article has hitherto been very limited, and confined almost exclusively to the northern parts of the island, where there is reason to fear that the most suitable soils were not selected, nor the most approved details of cultivation adopted. But now that the success of the great cotton experiment of the East India Company has been pretty well established in several parts of their possessions, and when the consumers of cotton in England are looking to the east for a more certain supply than that which foreign countries afford, the cultivation in Ceylon offers a fair field for agricultural industry. Dr. Gardner, the able superintendent of the Ceylon Botanical Gardens, (who has seen much of cotton cultivation both in the northern provinces of Brazil, and in different parts of India), and who lately visited the northern and eastern portions of Ceylon, has stated in some remarks which he has published on the subject, that there are large tracts in that part of the island called the Wanny, which he believes to be admirably adapted to the production of cotton.

* The fleshy part of the nut dried in the sun preparatory to crushing.

Cinnamon.

Despatch No. 60, of 4th November, 1846.

The production and trade in cinnamon, and the difficulties by which they have recently been depressed, have been so amply dwelt upon in my recent Report on the sources of Colonial Revenue, that I find it unnecessary to advert more particularly to the subject here.

The recent advance in prices at home has given a slight impulse to the trade; but the permission to collect the crop of 1847 in the cinnamon gardens at Colombo, brought but 900*l.* at public sale.

The production of the present year is likely to be but small, many gardens having been quite neglected, owing to the indifferent prospects of the trade. A few properties only have been carefully attended to, and kept in good order, and in these the produce will, probably, be large, and of good quality. But the wild or jungle cinnamon has ceased to be peeled for the last two years, nor is it likely to be resumed so long as the duty remain at its present high amount.

Spices.

Hitherto the cultivation of spices, except cinnamon, has been scarcely attended to, though both the soil and climate appear, from the little which has been done, to be admirably adapted to their more extended production. Within the last few years, a few small plantations of *cloves* and *nutmegs* have been established from plants and seeds supplied from the botanical gardens at Peradenia, and the result is looked forward to with great interest. *Cardamoms* and *ginger* might also be successfully cultivated to any extent, and would be a profitable occupation for the natives were they as industrious as those of the Malabar country, where both these articles are extensively cultivated. The same observations apply to different kinds of plants which are valuable as *dye-stuffs*, such for example as the *choya-root*, and the *indigo*, both of which are indigenous to the soil.

Chocolate.

Chocolate is another production which might be extensively cultivated here, particularly in the hot and humid parts of the low country, which Dr. Gardner states to be very similar to those parts of South America, in which the tree is so extensively cultivated. There is a small plantation in the botanical gardens, but at that elevation, nearly 2000 feet, the tree does not grow freely. A considerable quantity of seed is, however, now produced annually, from which plantations could be established without difficulty.

Tea.

The tea plant has lately been cultivated to some extent by the Mesrs. Worms, the most enterprising planters in the island, at their estate at Pusalawa. The climate of that district, which is about 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, seems well adapted for the growth of the plant, but the very great difference between the price of labour in Ceylon and China will, I fear, prevent its profitable cultivation.

Timber.

The forests, especially in the interior, and on the eastern side of the island, abound in magnificent trees, many of which are well known to be valuable, not merely for economical purposes, but from their extreme beauty and suitability for cabinet work. As yet, less attention has been directed to the productions of the forests of the interior than to those of the coast, and ebony is the only export, and even this to a trifling amount.

Rice.

In former times, rice was much more extensively produced in Ceylon than it now is, more especially in the northern parts of the island, the decrease being obviously connected with the decrease of the Tamil population in that quarter from political causes. All that appears to be requisite for the extension of the cultivation of this essential article of food, is the re-introduction of that industrious people, and the restoration of the tanks which have fallen into decay, for the purpose of irrigation. By the adoption of such measures, a far greater benefit than that of

CEYLON.

the increased production of rice would be conferred on the island, as it would not then, as now, be dependent exclusively on migratory labour for all operations of magnitude.

Ceylon has this year, however (1847), exhibited the unusual circumstance of an export of rice to Great Britain. This has arisen from the extraordinary demand, and the high price of bread stuffs at home, and advantage has been taken of the favourable state of freights as compared with Bengal, to re-export to England grain which had been imported for consumption in the colony. Freights from Calcutta to London, are at present 8*l.* 10*s.* per ton; whilst from Colombo, they are from 5*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*, a difference which more than covers the charges of the carriage of the rice from the Coromandel coast to Ceylon. And looking to the geographical position of this island, and its salubrity as an entrepôt, it is not unreasonable to conjecture, that commercial operations of this kind might be gradually increased under judicious encouragement. I understand that rice, which is now quoted at 29*s.* in London, can be delivered from Ceylon, cost and all charges inclusive, for 14*s.*; and I am informed by the merchants, that shipments to the extent of 50,000 bushels may be expected within this and the next few months. Ships have also been chartered here to proceed to Akyab or Arracan, for rice for the British market.

The state of the native production of rice within the island, has been fully detailed in the Report on the Colonial Revenue before referred to. During the past year, 1846, it has rather diminished in extent, owing to the want of the periodical rains; but the prospects of the present year, promise an abundant harvest of this important grain.

The Ceylon Botanic Garden.

In connexion with the agriculture of the island, I feel it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to the very satisfactory progress of this institution, and the services which it is rendering to the development of the natural resources of the island.

The attention of its superintendent, Dr. Gardner, has been directed not merely to scientific investigation, but to the introduction from other countries, and the acclimatized cultivation of such exotic plants, as are likely to add to the agricultural wealth of the island.

Previously to the arrival of the present superintendent, who was selected by Sir W. Hooker, the garden had been so neglected as to be almost valueless to the colony. By Dr. Gardner's attention and exertions, it is now one of the most flourishing and useful institutions in India; large nurseries have been established for the propagation and distribution of useful plants, which are sold at a trifling price to the public, and numbers of foreign trees and vegetables have been successfully introduced. The result has been, that hundreds of thousands of trees and plants of all descriptions, have been dispersed throughout the island, at a very moderate cost to the Government. Dr. Gardner is likewise engaged in the preparation of a *Flora Ceylonica*, a work which will contain descriptions of all the plants indigenous to the island, so far as he can obtain them, and thus make known to the scientific world, the history and uses of the vegetable productions of a region, of which less is known to the botanists of Europe, than any other portion of India, of equal extent.

Section III.

Minerals.

With the exception of a very brief sketch in Davy's *Ceylon*, nothing has been published, and little is known of the geology or mineral productions of the island. The formations are essentially primitive, and present but few features of novelty; gneiss being the principal rock. Dolomite is found in isolated positions in the interior, and is the source of the lime used by the natives in that part of the country; burnt coral being in general use in the north, and along the coasts.

Coal is not likely to be discovered in any great quantity, although the unusual circumstances under which it has lately been found in Northern India, render any dictum on this subject hazardous.

Iron ore is frequent, and has been worked from time immemorial by the natives; but it is questionable, whether the richness of the veins is sufficient to justify any extensive operations.

Tin has been found in the Saffragam district by Dr. Gygax, a Swiss mineralogist of some eminence, and it is not unlikely that it may yet be opened in considerable quantity, as it is principally in metamorphic rocks like those of Ceylon that mineral veins are found to exist, and generally in mountainous districts or their immediate vicinity.

Copper ore has also been discovered in the south, and in the immediate vicinity of water-carriage; and frequent inquiries have recently been made, as to the terms on which Government would be disposed to afford encouragement to capitalists, to undertake the search and working of mines. But without some more satisfactory examination and evidence as to the actual capability of the island, engagements of that kind cannot safely be entered into.

Quicksilver has lately been procured at Cottah, in the immediate neighbourhood of Colombo, but only in small quantities; it had been discovered in the same spot in 1799, but not considered sufficiently prolific to warrant extensive works.

In the Galle district, *kuolin* or decomposed feldspar, of a fine white quality and even texture, has been recently found in great abundance. It is well adapted for the manufacture of the finer kinds of pottery and paving tiles, but the art of pottery and brick-making is here in the very rudest state, and much good would result from introducing some simple improvements in this branch of industry.

Anthracite coal has lately been turned up in Saffragam; but I doubt whether it could be worked with economy in that district.

Plumbago is at present the only mineral which is exported on a large scale. It is found at the depth of eight or ten yards, in pretty rich streams in the neighbourhood of Caltura. The trade in it, during the last seven years, is exhibited by the following return:—

Year.	Quantity.			Value.			Duty.		
	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1840	981	0	0	122	10	1	3	1	4
1841	2,002	2	7	268	9	4	6	14	3
1842	7,285	0	3	1,231	14	4	30	16	0
1843	3,676	3	20	523	17	4	13	2	0
1844	9,914	3	21	1,294	12	10	32	7	4
1845	19,245	0	15	2,451	19	7	61	6	0
1846	25,036	3	7	3,036	2	5	75	18	1

I can have no doubt, from the general impression which prevails of the existence of mineral wealth in Ceylon, and the disposition which has recently been manifested to explore and develope it, that operations of that kind will be readily undertaken, so soon as the local Government shall be in possession of your Lordship's instructions as to the terms on which contracts may be entered into with individuals desirous to speculate in mines.

Section IV.

Trade.

As regards commerce and operations during the year which has closed, the results, though not so striking as those exhibited by the return of 1845, are still more satisfactory, and exhibit a steady and I hope permanent advance.

Imports.

The imports of 1845 amounted to 1,495,127*l.*, of which 441,156*l.* was treasure. Those of the last year were to the value of 1,372,701*l.*, of which 381,812*l.* was treasure. There is, therefore, on the year under review, a slight falling off both in the importation of merchandize and the introduction of capital; but this can be sufficiently accounted for by external and temporary causes, without presenting any conclusion unfavourable to the progress of the colony. Indeed, regard being had to the singular condition of the money market at home, the disturbance of commerce in England, the low price of coffee, cinnamon, and other colonial produce

CEYLON.

in the home market, and the anxieties which for a time tended to the curtailment of planting operations in Ceylon, this slight variation in the amount of her imports may rather be regarded as an evidence of the steadiness and soundness of the colonial trade.

Exports.

The exports exhibit the gratifying result of an increase of 96,186*l.* on the previous year; the value in 1845, being 583,100*l.*, and in 1846, 679,286*l.*

In order, however, to give a better idea of the importance of the trade of this island, it may be interesting to see, at one glance, the progressive increase both in imports and exports during the past five years, which stand thus:—

IMPORTS.

YEAR.	Merchandize.	Treasure.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.
1842	622,447	172,311	794,758
1843	720,145	314,386	1,034,531
1844	848,242	517,795	1,366,037
1845	1,053,970	441,156	1,495,126
1846	990,859	381,842	1,372,701

EXPORTS.

	£.
1842	463,445
1843	421,083
1844	531,586
1845	583,100
1846	679,286

There has, therefore, been a steady and gratifying augmentation of our imports and exports during the period mentioned; and notwithstanding the trifling diminution indicated by the returns of the former during the past year, the improvement of the colony may be considered permanent and progressive.

These inferences and observations, however, apply almost exclusively to the operations of Europeans and the results and success of foreign investments and the speculations of others, than the natives of Ceylon. It is a remarkable circumstance, but one easily accounted for, that all the activity and energy now so busily manifested throughout every district of the island, and applied to every encouraging department of commercial enterprize, is confined to strangers and immigrants alone, and that the Singhalese themselves take no apparent interest, and show no evidence of being participators in the general prosperity.

Though seldom in want of the first necessaries of life, and although the great mass of the population is very much elevated above that which constitutes poverty in other countries, it is a singular fact, and somewhat discouraging, that *there is not a single native capitalist in Ceylon;* though some are proprietors of land to a considerable extent, and enjoy a corresponding rank and influence in their localities.

Under their former rulers, the low country was in the hands of the Dutch, who asserted their monopoly over all commerce under capital penalties. The population of the high lands and mountains of the interior, were in like manner prohibited by their rulers from all trade, or even intercourse with foreigners; money was unknown amongst them, inasmuch as there was nothing on which to expend or in which to invest it. The king was the absolute owner of all lands, and never permitted their alienation to private parties, merely permitting their temporary cultivation as the reward of public services; and thus property in land being unattainable and commerce prohibited, the accumulation of money was never thought of by the natives; and rank and the power of oppression became the sole objects of ambition.

This spirit, though checked in its manifestation, still lives in its results, and to the present day, the upper classes have neither the means nor the inclination to embark in active pursuits, and the lower classes universally refuse to labour, or to enter into the service of any but their immediate chiefs.

Even the few headmen who have recently ventured to undertake plantations of coffee and cinnamon, employ not Singhalese but Malabar labourers.

No Singhalese is the owner of a vessel larger than a fishing-boat, and no Singhalese is a merchant at Colombo, or any seaport in the island; the small craft by

which the coasting trade, and the intercourse with India is carried on, being exclusively the property of Moormen, Parsees, and Malabar Chetties, from the Coromandel coast. A few Dutchmen navigate square-rigged vessels, but there are very few.

The craft generally in use consist of brigs, schooners, and dhoneys, varying in size from 1 to 150 tons; the latter are badly built, cannot beat against the wind, and, consequently, are chiefly employed only during the north-east monsoon, from November to April, and laid up for the rest of the year. Their brigs and schooners run round the island, and visit both the Coromandel and Malabar coasts, chiefly for grain. They sail also during some part of the south-west monsoon, but are not generally considered very seaworthy. They are all manned by Lascars, and, in almost every case, are commanded by Portuguese or Dutch.

The *registered tonnage* of the Colombo district is 15,000 tons, and, I believe, that of the rest of the island is about 20,000 tons. This description of property is evidently on the increase, and as the demand for timber and cattle from the eastern side of the island increases, and the large tracts of land planted with cocoa-nuts in the northern and eastern districts become productive, there will be a much greater demand for tonnage of this description.

Most of the dhoneys are built at Ceylon, but the schooners and large vessels are nearly all built in Cochin, on the Malabar coast.

The native Singhalese are equally unconnected with the internal commerce of the island, all of which is conducted by Moormen, Malabars, Parsees, and strangers, many of whom only come over from the coast of India for a season, and return again to their wives and families. All the business of the country is carried on with the capital of these men, and that of the British merchants and planters; and the Singhalese themselves see these inspiriting and enriching operations going on from day to day for the advantage of foreigners without an apparent emotion at their own exclusion, or an effort to participate, either as employers or labourers, in the general benefits which are increasing around them.

The conclusion is, therefore, for the present, irresistible but depressing, that for some time to come, and till education can stimulate to energy and awaken ambition, it can only be through the agency of strangers, and the instrumentality of foreign capital and foreign enterprise, that the resources of Ceylon are to be developed, and its prosperity advanced.

Foreign Shipping.

The amount of shipping inwards and outwards, during the year 1846, exceeds that of the former or any previous year, being—

Inwards, 211,946 tons.
Outwards, 211,424 tons.

Freights formerly ruled higher in Ceylon than in the Presidencies of India. But owing to the late advances in the price of cotton, and the demand for bread-stuffs in Great Britain, freights in Bombay and Calcutta, are considerably higher than at Galle or Colombo; and another circumstance, which has considerable influence in keeping down the rates, is that Ceylon is more resorted to than formerly by seeking ships, as well as by vessels arriving with coal for the steam-vessels, and which, of course, look to obtain a homeward freight in return.

Banks, Interest, and Exchange.

There are two banks, both formed by a proprietary almost unconnected with Ceylon. *The Bank of Ceylon* was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1840, and its operations are confined exclusively to this colony. *The Oriental Bank* is a branch of more considerable establishment, with a Board of Directors in London, and another in Bombay; where its operations are considerable, as well as at Calcutta, Madras, Canton, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

The capital of either establishments, as applied to this island, is not considerable, being about 100,000*l.* to 125,000*l.* each. The circulation of either is proportionally limited, that of the Oriental Bank being about 15,000*l.*, in 1846, and that of the other 27,487*l.*

The operations of both are principally confined to the receipt of deposits, the sale of bills on England and the Presidencies of India, and to local discounts to merchants and traders. The latter mainly comprise purchases made by

CEYLON.

the Chetties from importers, chiefly of British produce, and the acceptances of the Moormen retailers, whose paper is for smaller amounts, proportionate to their minor transactions.

As regards deposits and the usual business of banking, the transactions of the year 1846 show a considerable increase over that of 1845, the payments made by parties keeping accounts being in the latter year about one million and a half; whilst those of 1846 are considerably above two millions. So far as I can collect opinions, the nature of the business at present carried on by the merchants of Ceylon generally, is of a sound and steady description, and partakes little of a speculative character; whilst the statements given above afford a fair view of the increasing value and importance of their operations.

During the year 1846, owing to various causes, as well external as internal, the value of money in Ceylon has been unusually high, as compared with former periods. In 1845, the rates for purchasing bills on England averaged—

At 6 months' sight, 3 per cent. Premium.
3 „ 3½ „ „
30 days „ 4½ „ „

But in 1846 the rates averaged—

At 6 months' sight, 4 per cent. Discount.
3 „ 3 „ „
30 days „ 2½ „ „

During the same periods, the average selling price of bills on England were as follows—

	1845		1846	
6 months' sight	6 per cent.	Premium—	2 per cent.	Discount.
3 „	7 „	„	1 „	„
30 days „	8 „	„	Par.	
Sight „	9 „	„	1 „	Premium.

It will thus be seen that remittances from Ceylon could be made at par during the greater portion of 1846; whilst in 1844 and 1845 that accommodation would have cost the sender from 6 to 9 per cent.

For the purchase and sale of bills on England, the following are the highest and lowest rates during the two years under comparison:—

—	The Highest Rate, 1845.	The Lowest Rate, 1845.	The Highest Rate, 1846.	The Lowest Rate, 1846.
For Purchase.				
6 months . .	4 per cent. Prem.	Par.	2 per cent. Dis.	7 per cent. Dis.
3 „ . . .	4 „ „	1 per cent. Prem.	1 „ „	5 „ „
30 days . . .	5 „ „	2 „ „	½ „ „	5 „ „
For Sale.				
6 months . .	7 per cent. Prem.	2 per cent. Dis.	1 per cent. Prem.	2 „ „
3 „ . . .	8 „ „	5 „ Prem.	Par.	2 „ „
30 days . . .	9 „ „	7 „ „	3 per cent. Prem.	Par.
Sight	10 „ „	7½ „ „	4 „ „	Par.

The interest on money, at all times high in Ceylon, has been especially so during the last year; on mortgage of landed property and other undoubted securities, 7 and 8 per cent. could have been obtained during 1843, 1844, and 1845; but in 1846, similar accommodations have cost 9 and 10 per cent. habitually, and even so high as 12 and 14. In some instances, so much as 18 per cent. has been given on the security of houses and ground in Colombo, and as this was paid in advance, the charge may fairly be taken as equivalent to 22 per cent. per annum.

Gold.

The quantity of gold imported during 1846 has been very considerable. It would, however, be impracticable to ascertain the amount, as large sums are daily brought into the island by private individuals who of course never enter such at the custom-house. The high price maintained for the precious metal is very surprising; the average may be quoted at 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per sovereign.

The avidity with which it is purchased by the Chetties in order to be sent to the coast in return for rice, &c., leads one to suppose that, even at that high figure, it is a profitable remittance; 10,000*l.* a-month might, for that purpose alone, be disposed of in Ceylon. Another cause of the price being kept up, may likewise be the falling off in the last year's remittances from the Straits. Large sums have for years been sent from Singapore to the Coromandel Coast, where they were eagerly bought up, in order to be converted into jewellery; but the present premium on gold in China, checks exportation to a similar extent as in former years. A considerable quantity is also used for jewellery in Ceylon, The sovereign of the coinage of George III., known as the "Dragon," is more highly esteemed than others, being of a finer touch; it consequently fetches higher price.

Section V.

Post and Mail communication.

The geographical position of Ceylon has rendered it a point of signal importance to the great arrangements now in process of formation for the extension of steam navigation to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, and the establishment of improved postal communication between England and her eastern settlements.

Ceylon is, at the present moment, the centre of operations for the mails from China, the Straits' settlements, Bengal, and Madras, aa well as the French, Spanish and Dutch possessions at Pondicherry, Java, Manilla, and elsewhere. Even these communications are still but in embryo as regards future development; and, when, in addition to them, regular postal intercourse shall have been opened by means of steam with our Australian colonies and probably with Mauritius, from all of which lines must converge at Ceylon, the future importance of this island cannot fail to be apparent.. And concurrently with this, will arise the grave question of the sufficiency, accessibility, and safety of the present station at Point de Galle as compared with the unrivalled harbour and facilities of Trincomalee. The superiority of accommodation at the latter for ships of war; its convenience for expediting communications between the Admiralty and the naval force in the eastern seas; and its fine commercial situation fronting the Bay of Bengal, and presenting a centre whence all the lines of postal communication must diverge, mark it strongly as the point towards which attention must ultimately be directed with a view to these objects, in preference to the imperfect harbour of Point de Galle For packets on their way to China, Trincomalee would be an addition of 24 hours' steaming, but for the mails to Bengal and Madras, there would be a correspondent advance on their voyage in that direction.

As regards the mercantile interests of the colony, there can be little doubt that Trincomalee would eventually present advantages to the commerce and trade of the island, infinitely superior to Colombo, where there is no harbour, and only an open roadstead with imperfect holding ground, which is anything but favourably regarded by shipping both from its inconvenience and insecurity. The producing districts of the interior lie nearly midway between the two places; and the few miles of additional road to be traversed from Kandy to Trincomalee will be more than compensated by avoiding the three formidable mountain passes between Kandy and Colombo.

The principal obstacle would naturally be the reluctance of the merchants to abandon their present buildings at Colombo and transfer their establishments to Trincomalee. But there can be little doubt that the only consideration which ever influenced the Dutch to establish the seat of government at Colombo in preference to Trincomalee, when they had their choice of both, was that the cinnamon plantations, from which they chiefly derived their revenue, lie in the vicinity of Colombo, and it therefore became necessary to concentrate all their strength and vigilance there for the protection of their enforced monopoly. Colombo, under the Dutch, was a fortified factory rather than the seat of government.

I feel it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to this question, as it has already made way in the colony; discussions have publicly taken place as to the propriety of directing the proposed railway from Kandy to Trincomalee, instead of to Colombo; its superior advantages for the shipment of coffee and produce of all kinds have been warmly canvassed; and I have recently had official intimation on behalf of a large body of planters to the north east of Kandy, that it is their inten-

tion in the coming coffee season to transport their produce, and try the experiment of its shipment from Trincomalee.

In the meantime as regards the

Post Office Establishment of the Colony,

the Postmaster-General, who has the superintendence and responsibility of the mail operations, both external and internal, is a colonial officer who has recently been placed in the second class of the civil service with a salary of 550*l.*, augmentable by annual additions to 650*l.*

His chief station is inconveniently placed at the seat of government, as this involves the necessity of constant journeys to Galle, to await the arrival and conduct the despatch of the mails. He personally superintends the offices of the western province; those of the central are under his deputy, and the other four provinces are controuled by their respective government agents in communication with the Postmaster-General.

2. *Internal Communication.*

There is daily communication (Sundays excepted) between Colombo and all parts of the island, and, with one or two exceptions, between all the main stations one with the other. This communication is carried on from Colombo to Kandy in the central province, and from Colombo to Point de Galle in the southern, each a distance of 72 miles, which is travelled in 10½ hours by means of mail coaches established by private parties, and under contract to Government for the conveyance of the mails. From Kandy the mails are conveyed by foot-messengers to Trincomalee and all other places in the eastern province, as soon after their being received as possible. From Galle, a private coach, under contract with Government, conveys the mails to Matura, 28 miles further in the southern province, whence they are taken by foot-messengers to Tangalle and Hambantotte, which latter place is the farthest limit of the southern province where a Government officer is stationed.

The distance from Colombo to the utmost northern limit of Jaffna is 220 miles, and between those two places are the intermediate stations of Negombo, Chilaw, Putlam, (the chief town of the north-western province,) and Manaar. Excepting the Government despatches, the correspondence between the western, and north-western, and northern provinces is unimportant, especially when it is compared with that which daily takes place between Colombo and the Kandyan provinces. The obstructions caused by wild animals, deep streams, and absence of local European superintendence in parts of the northern and north-western provinces are so great, that it is matter of surprise that the communication is so extremely regularly maintained, as it is very seldom that a day's mail is due between the two places. The communication, however, is by no means rapid; it occupies four days.

3. *Communication by Land, with India.*

The mails between Ceylon and the continent of India by land, are conveyed for eight months of the year through Jaffna and Point Pedro, whence they are taken in catamarans to Point Calymare on the opposite coast; and for the other four months through Manaar and Talamanar, whence they are passed over in hired boats to Ramisseram. By these means letters from Colombo may reach Madras in eight to ten days, and Calcutta and Bombay in 17 to 20 days; the variation depending on the nature of the weather at the two extremities of this island. Letters taken by the steamers from Point de Galle reach Madras in three days and Calcutta in nine; whilst those taken in the "Seaforth" steam-packet to Bombay generally arrive in less than six days.

4. *Communication with Places to the eastward of Ceylon, exclusive of the Presidencies of India.*

The communication between Ceylon and the Straits of Malacca, China, Java, and Manilla, is, of course, now efficiently carried on monthly by means of the contract steamers from Point de Galle; other opportunities are very rare and uncertain. Letters are frequently received from Australia by way of Calcutta, occupying about three months in the transit; but a direct opportunity scarcely presents itself of sending letters to Australia: one hardly occurs once in a twelve-

month. From our near neighbours at Mauritius, letters arrive almost monthly by vessels coming thence to Ceylon in search of freight; but direct opportunities of sending letters thither are nearly as unfrequent as I have above mentioned with regard to Australia. Occasional overland letters, received in the Ceylon packets for Mauritius, are thus from necessity sometimes detained for weeks, or are sent to Madras and Calcutta, on the chance of there being an opportunity of transmitting them from those places.

Homeward-bound vessels take letters, at irregular periods, from Ceylon to the Cape of Good Hope and St. Helena.

5. *Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office.*

In taking into consideration the revenue of the Ceylon Post Office, some circumstances must be borne in mind which do not obtain at home, or in colonies which are wholly inhabited by a European population, namely, that the revenue is chiefly derived from the overland correspondence and from that of the merchants with India. Very little proceeds from the natives, who are rather a hindrance than a source of profit to the Post Office, as they send their letters almost always, "Post not paid;" and as the parties addressed refuse to receive them, they become "dead letters." An excess of revenue appears only in the western, central, and southern provinces; the expenditure greatly exceeds the returns in the northern, eastern, and north-western provinces.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
In the financial year, 1845, the total revenue of the Post Office Department of Ceylon was . .	7,385	6	3
Its total expenditure	6,590	2	5
Leaving a balance of . . .	£ 795	3	10

And the whole official correspondence of the island was carried free of expense to Government.

A new Ordinance came into force on the 1st of February, 1846, which reduced greatly the rates of postage on inland correspondence, and abolished the privilege of franking, except in the cases of the Governor and Colonial Secretary. The experiment of increasing the amount of correspondence by diminishing the rates of charge on it, has not been attended, as yet, with the success which many expected from it, but which I never anticipated, my reason simply being, that the middling and poorer orders, who increased the revenue in England when they were placed in a position to be able to afford to write letters to their friends, do not correspond here.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The receipts of the financial year, 1846, were .	7,576	15	6½
The expenditure	7,448	11	8
Surplus . . .	£ 128	3	10½

The rates of inland postage at present are, for a ¼ oz.—

			d.
Under	25	miles	1
,,	50	,,	1½
,,	100	,,	3
,,	150	,,	4½
Exceeding	150	,,	6

And a tax, precisely similar to that levied in England, is also imposed in Ceylon on overland correspondence, in aid of the colonial revenue.

The expenditure of the Post Offices is kept within the narrowest limits possible. The Postmaster-General receives a salary of 550*l.*, with an increase, by four instalments, to 650*l.*; the Deputy Postmaster-General in Kandy, receives 150*l.* a-year; and the Deputy in Colombo (after 28 years' service as a public officer), 100*l.* The clerks and post-holders average from 75*l.*, the highest amount, to 9*l.*, the lowest amount, per annum. The messengers are, in most instances, paid at a lower rate than the labourers on private estates in the neighbourhood where they perform their duties; and it naturally results, that the best workmen do not fall to the lot of the Post Office, nor is its work the most efficiently performed.

The Receipts and Expenditure of the Post Office Department for the last five years have been—

CEYLON.

	Receipts. £.	s.	d.	Expenditure. £.	s.	d.
1842 . .	5,365	17	6¾	5,643	8	10
1843 . .	5,978	11	2¾	5,635	10	10
1844 . .	7,340	0	1	5,710	13	6¼
1845 . .	7,385	6	3	6,590	2	5
1846 . .	7,576	15	6½	7,448	11	8

As to the general improvement of this department, it must be in a great degree contingent on the increase of revenue at our disposal, not merely for the extension of operations and the more liberal remuneration of the officers, but for the still more important object of so improving the public roads, as to facilitate communication, and admit of the extension of the contract system for the conveyance of the mails by wheel carriages, and, if possible, by night travelling.

I have directed a Report and Estimates to be made for the establishment of a simple form of telegraphic signals between Galle and Colombo, which, I have reason to believe, would afford important convenience to the Government and the community, whose mails are now made up at a conjectural date, to catch the steamers expected about that time at Galle; and as their appearances are always more or less uncertain, the correspondence of Ceylon is frequently lying for days together at that port to await their arrival. The establishment of a telegraph, to announce to Colombo the first sight of the packet in the offing of Galle, would obviate all this precipitancy and loss of time, and afford every facility for keeping the mails open to the latest moment compatible with their timely transmission.

But the most material improvement attainable under the present system, would be that suggested in Sir Colin Campbell's Despatch of the 13th February, 1846, No. 43, in which he suggested that the steamers between Galle and Suez should sight Colombo on each transit, when the mails could be landed or embarked, with a trifling delay, the bulk of the letters being always ready by the day the ship was expected, and the remainder sent by an after packet to be put on board at Galle. By this means, the correspondence of the merchants, intermediate between India and England, could be conducted with much additional facility, as opportunity would be afforded, both ways, for forwarding by the same steamer such advices as might be rendered necessary by the intelligence of which she was the bearer.

Expense of Bi-Monthly Mail.

Another serious disadvantage under which Ceylon labours is connected with the imperfect receipt and serious expense attendant on the arrival and despatch of the bi-monthly mail by way of Bombay.

The colonial letters, as well as those for China and the Straits, which leave London on the 4th and 7th of each month, are brought, as your Lordship is aware, by the East India Company's steamers from Suez to Bombay; and it has hitherto been the custom to dispatch a vessel from Colombo to bring them on to Ceylon. For this purpose, the steamer which belongs to the colony, the "Seaforth," and whose proper service is the care and protection of the pearl beds, has been taken off that duty since the year 1841, and employed in the carriage of the Bombay mails; but, as she was not constructed for this service, and is insufficient in power to brave the monsoons, she is only available for eight months in the year, the mails during the other four being brought across India by express from Bombay to Manaar.

The expenditure for that service has by this means become so costly as to call for immediate consideration; as, in addition to the habitual outlay on the steamer for salaries, stores, coals, repairs, and incidental charges, the colony has to bear the cost of the overland expresses, which amount annually to 225*l.* on an average, of the last three years.

When the "Seaforth" was first employed on this service she was enabled to reduce her expenses, by the conveyance of passengers, and the freight of treasure and other articles; besides which, the second monthly steam-packets had not then been established from Suez to China and Calcutta. But since she commenced to run, the Admiralty have entered into this new contract, which has reduced the number of the letters carried by the "Seaforth," and consequently the postage recoverable, nearly one half: at the same time, the establishment of a private company for steam navigation at Bombay, who now run their vessels regularly to Colombo and Galle, has drawn off the passengers by the colonial steamer, and

likewise absorbed a large proportion of her freights; and a still further abstraction must be looked for so soon as the Peninsular and Oriental Company open their intended line from Galle to Bombay.

The service is therefore now carried on at a disadvantage, which has arisen since its establishment, and which involves an annual charge to the colony, which, at present, exceeds 2,250*l.* for the "Seaforth" alone, in addition to 225*l.* for the overland expresses; whilst, on the letters brought by both, the annual postage does not much exceed 850*l.*

The annexed tables will exhibit these results more distinctly :—

No. 1.—RETURN of the GROSS EXPENSE of the steamer "Seaforth" for each of the years 1844, 1845, and 1846 :—

	1844			1845			1846		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Salaries	1,457	0	4	1,495	5	0¾	1,615	3	4¼
Stores and provision . . .	787	18	2¾	525	8	7	648	19	1¼
Coals	1,055	14	0	920	12	11	1,524	13	8½
Repairs	96	19	10	1,435	9	11½	277	4	0
Miscellaneous charges . .	253	15	2¾	356	9	1	441	13	4¼
Total . . . £	3,651	7	7½	4,733	5	7¼	4,507	13	6¼

No. 2.—RETURN of all RECEIPTS, on account of the steamer "Seaforth," on each of the years 1844, 1845, and 1846 :—

	1844			1845			1846		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Freight and passage money .	2,576	6	7½	654	17	4	1,427	19	8¾
Postage	1,332	13	10½	595	14	9¾	816	4	5¼
Proceeds of old stores sold .	..			2	15	9	26	14	2¼
Total . . . £	3,909	0	6	1,253	7	10¾	2,270	18	4¼

No. 3.—RETURN showing the Actual Cost of the Steamer "Seaforth," of each of the Years 1844, 1845, and 1846 :—

	1844			1845			1846		
	£.	s.	d	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Gross expense as per statement, No. 1 . . .	3,651	7	7½	4,733	5	7¼	4,507	13	6¼
Deduct receipts as per statement No. 2 . .	3,909	0	6	1,253	7	10¾	2,270	18	4¼
Actual cost . . . . . £	..			3,479	17	8½	2,236	15	2
Gross expense of the 3 years							12,892	6	9
Deduct receipts of ditto							7,433	6	9
Actual cost in three years . . . . . £							5,459	0	0
If, to the gross expense of the "Seaforth" in these 3 years							12,892	6	9
Be added the cost of expresses for the same period							684	6	3
It shows a total outlay of							13,576	13	0
And, after deducting the postage and other receipts by the "Seaforth"				£. 7,433	s. 6	d. 9			
And the postage on letters expressed from Bombay alone . .				225	0	0			
							7,658	6	9
There is a positive loss on the 3 years' operation of . . . . . £							5,918	6	3

Or nearly double the postage value of all the letters brought by both channels since 1843.

Pearl Fishery.

But the evil is not confined to a pecuniary loss in this direction alone; a more serious one having, I have reason to fear, been experienced in the neglect of the pearl beds since the withdrawal of the steamer from her original duty of their supervision to place her on her present service.

CEYLON.

In the Report of the Revenues of the Colony forwarded to your Lordship in November last, the Colonial Secretary says, " I cannot but entertain a doubt from what I see by the Government Records, that the system of conservancy and observation maintained by the Government (over the pearl banks) is not sufficiently persevering, minute, and effective. I have an impression that mere periodical visits are not enough, and that when oysters are found to have disappeared in one locality, sufficient vigilance and exertion have not been made to trace their reappearance elsewhere, or to investigate the disturbing causes which have led to their removal. I cannot but think that, by increased energy and more continuous exertions, the fisheries might be so watched and conducted as to avoid these frequent intervals of suspension, and to render the operations so much more steady and systematic, as to approach in some degree to an annual instead of only an occasional source of employment and income."

Subsequent observation and reports have served to confirm this conviction in my mind, and a very general impression prevails that since the withdrawal of the steamer from attendance on the pearl banks, disturbance by fishermen and pillage by strangers have increased to so great an extent as to have entirely defeated the hopes of the Government for any immediate income from this quarter.

I have the honour to submit with this the Report of the Master Attendant, who recently hired a vessel, and at an expense of 175*l.*, made a survey of the pearl banks; but from it your Lordship will perceive that Mr. De Waas discourages any hope of a successful fishery for some years to come.

The Master Attendant concurs with the Colonial Secretary in recommending increased vigilance to save the banks from injury and plunder; but I cannot suggest any measure for effecting this desirable object till the "Seaforth" steamer can be again made available and restored to her original service. With this view I am induced to hope that arrangements may be practicable either with the Peninsular and Oriental Company, or, failing them, with the Bombay Steam Navigation Company, for the carriage of the bi-monthly mails by their vessels; thus liberating our own steamer, and enabling her to return to her proper duties, and at the same time relieving the Colonial Treasury of the disproportionate expense now encountered for the support of the mail communication by sea, as well as the overland expresses from Bombay to Manaar.

The following is the letter of the Master Attendant in allusion to the Pearl Banks:—

(No. 18.) Master Attendant's Office,
SIR, Colombo, 12th April, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, my return to this port on the 10th instant, from an inspection of the pearl banks laying off Aripo and Cardivo Island; and, in transmitting to you herewith the Report made by the Adapanaars, I regret to state that the result of this year's inspection is altogether unfavourable, and from it I am led to conclude that no revenue from that source can be expected for at least five years hence.

There has been found a large quantity of oyster spawn in the bank called the chivalpaar (as per sample already forwarded to you), which, if left undisturbed till its full growth, a fishery may probably take place in the year 1852.

In the Pariaparkarre a very small quantity of oyster brood was found, which also requires protection until its full growth.

The Pariapaar and the Modreagam banks are in a ruinous state, and they may not perhaps be productive of oysters for some years.

The rest of the banks present a very hopeless aspect, in which no oysters have been found.

In thus making a brief report of the result of my labours, I conceive it to be my duty to suggest that the banks should be more strictly watched, as it has been detected that the Negombo fishermen on proceeding to Cardivo are in the habit of casting their nets upon them, thereby injuring the banks and disturbing the young oysters.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. DE WAAS,
Acting Master Attendant.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Section VI.

Revenue and Expenditure of 1846.

Compared with the revenue of 1845, the receipts of 1846 exhibit a decrease, under particular heads, amounting to 51,089*l.*; and, after deducting from this a simultaneous increase on others to the extent of 13,347*l.*, the returns still show a diminution of Income equal to 37,742*l.*

On coming to analyze this deficiency, however, it is clearly ascribable to temporary causes, and affords no grounds for an inference as to any check in the prosperous advance of the revenue generally. The main sources of income, the sea customs, the salt sales, and the stamps and excise, exhibit no tendency to decline; and those in which a fluctuation has been perceptible, are rather the casual than the permanent sources of income.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The revenue and receipts of 1845 were . . .	454,146	6	6
Those of 1846	416,403	15	2¼
Decrease	£ 37,742	11	3¾

One item alone, the falling off in the proceeds from the sale of *Government lands*, accounts for 24,892*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* of this sum. In the former parts of this dispatch I have alluded to the causes of this decline; the tightness of the money market at home, and the consequent suspension of remittances to Ceylon; coupled with a panic in the colony, under the apprehension of an immediate removal of the discriminating duties levied at home on foreign and colonial imports. As all the lands hitherto sold for coffee cultivation had been purchased on calculations as to prices based on the continuance of these protective duties on Ceylon produce, the uncertainty as to their continuance not only involved all the existing plantations in perplexity, and caused a contraction of their operations and outlay pending the receipt of some decisive intelligence on this point, but it likewise deterred intending purchasers from investing their capital in lands suitable for coffee plantations, by its threatened diminution in their prospects of profit. Towards the end of the year, confidence began to revive, not merely from a growing conviction that with certain reforms in the taxation of the colony, the cost of production might be so reduced as to prepare the planters for a reduction in prices, but likewise from a belief that no immediate change in the duties was likely to be proposed. In consequence of this planting operations are at present more vigorous; lands are again coming into demand; and there is every likelihood that, in 1847, there will be an increase in the revenue arising from their sale.

Simultaneously with the panic regarding the prospects of coffee cultivation came the depression in the value of cinnamon at home, and the consequent *failure in the sale of the Government gardens* near Colombo; and under this head, I am sorry to say there is as yet no symptom of revival.

Another item which enters into the decrease of 1846 is 6479*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, arising from the sale of a *residue of the old stock of Government cinnamon;* but this may properly be regarded as a casualty, that source of income having ceased with the abolition of the Government monopoly.

In the customs' duties on imports there is, as I before noticed, a slight diminution on the year; but it is almost confined to the ports in the northern province, and appears chiefly in the article of rice, the importation of which was more limited in this than the preceding year.

In the tax upon *paddy and fine grain farms*, there was a falling off of 4092*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.*, owing, I have reason to believe, to a diminished production, occasioned by the untoward drought of the season.

On *arrack and toddy farms* there was also a decrease of 2768*l.*; but as these are always sold by public competition, their sale is liable to be affected by external and often capricious causes, otherwise inexplicable. Many of the renters are likewise in arrear, and are now under prosecution, and their liabilities, when recovered, will be carried to account amongst the outstanding balance in 1847. In the present year (1847) the sales hitherto concluded of these farms for 1848 exhibit a considerable advance beyond the closing prices of last year.

CEYLON.

On *tolls* there has been a diminution of 1598*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d*,, attributable to the abolition of the tolls upon foot-passengers; a measure which was most acceptable to the public, and especially to the cooly labourers; but which naturally reduced the value of the ferries and the bridges, when disposed of to the renters for the year.

On Judicial *Stamps* the decrease in the year has been 1,138*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, a circumstance which may fairly be accounted for in connexion with the suspension in the sales and conveyances of land, and the legal proceedings arising out of them. There is, however, a compensating increase to nearly the same amount, on the sale of Commercial Stamps, which exceeds that of 1845 by 1,162*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

The income from this department is very important, exceeding 22,000*l.* a-year, but its management is most unsatisfactory, both as regards the process of impressing the stamps and the enforcement of their use by the public.

I am at present engaged in a revision of the system, and shall be prepared to submit for your Lordship's approval, suggestions calculated to give greater security to the manufacturer of stamps, and to create a more abundant revenue from their issue.

In the consumption of stamps in judicial proceedings, I am not without hope of effecting a material increase; but more especially from enforcing the Ordinance which requires the use of receipt stamps on every payment of money; an enactment which is now all but universally neglected. They are given and required only in such important affairs as might become subjects of dispute; but in all the current business of retailers, and the multitude of transactions arising out of the carriage, clearing and shipment of coffee, and the use of stamped paper for receipts is never thought of, nor has the law been vigorously applied to compel it.

The other items of revenue which exhibit a decrease, as compared with 1845, are chiefly casual. Such as the sale of an excess of coals in that year, which of course could not be repeated in this; and a fluctuation in receipts from the sale of commissariat stores and provisions amounting to 811*l.*

The heads under which an increase of income has been brought to account, are the *Salt* sales, which have risen 1,902*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; *Blank Stamps*, already alluded to; the *Assessment tax* on houses, 1,700*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*; freight and passage money by the Colonial Steam-vessel, the "Seaforth," which made but few trips in 1845, being under repairs, and therefore shows an additional receipt of 783*l.* in 1846, when she made her usual compliment of voyages to and from Bombay. There were likewise *abatements of the salaries* of the Civil Service, 768*l.*; surcharges recovered 2,281*l.*, and other items of minor importance, amounting in the whole to 2,903*l.*

After deducting these sums from the gross deficiency of the year, the net diminution of income, 37,742*l.* will be exhibited as follows:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Decrease on sale of Lands	24,892	9	9
,, on sale of Cinnamon	6,479	1	9
,, on Customs (principally in the Northern Province)	4,380	5	8¼
,, on Paddy and fine grain farms	4,092	14	10¼
,, on Arrack and Toddy farms	2,768	1	1¼
,, on Tolls	1,598	10	3½
,, on Judicial Stamps	1,138	18	1
,, on sale of Coals	1,775	9	4¾
,, on Commissariat Stores and Provisions	811	13	2¾
,, on other heads of Revenue and Judicial Receipts	3,152	8	5
	51,089	12	6¾

Deduct Increase on the following Heads:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*	
On arrears of Revenue of former years recovered	1,844	13	2¼	
,, Salt	1,902	19	2	
,, Blank Stamps.	1,162	10	8¼	
,, Assessment Tax on Houses	1,700	13	2¼	
,, Freight and Passage per Steamer, "Seaforth"	783	0	1¼	
,, Abatements of Salaries of the Civil Service	768	5	5	
,, Surcharges recovered	2,281	18	7½	
,, other Heads of Receipts	2,903	0	10½	
				13,347 1 3
Net Decrease £				37,742 11 3¾

The increase of the income of salt has arisen, not merely from an increased acti-

vity in the trade in that article in the interior of the island, but likewise from an increased exportation to Bengal, and the Straits settlement. This export revived in the early part of 1846, and made considerable advances, owing to the facility and low rate of freight between Ceylon and Calcutta; but I have just received intelligence of a proceeding of the Supreme Government of India, which will, I apprehend, have the effect of entirely suspending the export from this island, as well as of interdicting it from Great Britain.

Yielding apparently to the agitation in England, against the high rates at which salt is permitted to be sold to the people of India, orders have been issued by the Deputy-Governor of Bengal to reduce it. Accordingly, the duties on imported salt, as well as the prices of salt sold wholesale on account of the Government, have been lowered from the 1st April, 1847. But the reduction on Ceylon salt being but one-half that on Bengal, the importer is placed at a disadvantage to that extent in the market; so much so, in fact, as to render the article unsaleable at remunerating prices. Had the reduction taken place to the same amount in both, there could have been no just cause of complaint; but I have the honour to send by this mail a special Despatch on the subject, which shows its prejudicial operation so far as Ceylon is concerned, whence the export may be considered to be at an end.

In this policy, the Indian Government, whilst yielding to the demand for cheap salt, have so managed the reduction as to create a protective duty in their own favour, amounting to a prohibition of the trade to other parties. The benevolent intentions of those by whom the agitation was conducted in England, have been carried into effect so far as the natives of India are concerned, and should they acquiesce in the recent arrangement, they will afford a satisfactory proof of their disinterested motives, as it effectually excludes themselves from any participation in the trade.

It would, however, be much to be regretted, if this exclusion should be confirmed and perpetuated so far as regards this island; and practically unjust, inasmuch as we have so recently done away all discriminating and protective duties in Ceylon, which operated to the prejudice of the East India Company's possessions.

Section VII.

Expenditure.

As compared with the expenditure of 1845, that of 1846 exhibits an increase of nearly 50,000*l.* And as compared with the receipts within the year, the outlay exceeds it by upwards of 80,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure, 1846.—498,205	8	10	
,, 1845.—448,232	11	10	
Increase, 1846 £49,972	17	0	

Revenue and Expenditure of 1846.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Revenue and Receipts in the Colony	415,023	5	7¼			
Receipts by the Agent in England	1,380	9	7			
				416,403	15	2¼
Expenditure in the Colony	464,545	10	10			
Expenditure by the Agent in England	33,659	18	0			
				498,205	8	10
Excess of Expenditure			£.	81,801	13	7¼

This excess of expenditure above the receipts of the period, has been provided for out of the surplus income of former years. I have directed a statement to be prepared, which shall be forwarded to your Lordship, showing the precise charges defrayed from this source; and distinguishing those borne by the current income of the year, so as to exhibit in contrast its actual revenue and outlay. age 229.

As compared with the expenditure of 1845, the increase in that of 1846 is accounted for under the following heads:—

	£.	s.	d.
Increase in Civil Expenditure	39,129	3	8¼
Ditto Military ditto	1,990	3	7¼
Ditto Commissariat ditto	9,056	19	5½
	50,176	6	9
Deduct decrease on the Expenditure of Agent in England	203	9	9
Net increase	£49,972	17	0

CEYLON

The increase in the civil expenditure consists in the additional salaries and allowances sanctioned by the Secretary of State, which, including arrears, amount to 22,637*l.* 6*s.* 8½*d.* There was likewise an increase sanctioned by the Legislative Council to the expenditure on public works of 7,688*l.* The extreme prevalence of disease, especially cholera, added 2,881*l.* to the ordinary medical charges. An addition of 1,096*l.* was made to the grant for educational purposes, and the balance is comprehended in revenue and miscellaneous charges of minor amount, but which added to the more important remunerations above make a total of 16,491*l.*

The increase of expenditure, of nearly 2000*l.* in the military department is owing chiefly to the increase in the strength of the Ceylon Rifle Corps; and that of the Commissariat is accounted for by the additional salaries to its officers, the arrears of former years to be cleared off, an additional outlay in the provision branch contingent on the additional demands of the service, and a variety of miscellaneous charges, including 2,200*l.* for building materials.

The items and sum total of the increase are exhibited below.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Increase in the Civil Expenditure—						
Salaries and Allowances sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government including arrears				22,637	6	8½
On charges sanctioned by the Legislative Council				16,491	16	11¾
				39,129	3	8½
The above increase of 16,491*l.* 16*s.* 11¾*d.*, includes—						
Increase on Public Works	7,688	0	0			
,, Medical Charges	2,881	0	0			
,, Education	1,096	0	0			
,, Revenue Charges	2,336	0	0			
,, Miscellaneous do.	2,490	0	0			
				16,491	0	0
Increase in the Military Expenditure						1,990	3	7½
The increase in the Commissariat Department is as follows:—						
Increase in Established Salaries	521	0	0			
,, Arrears of former years	3,357	0	0			
,, Provision Department	2,757	0	0			
,, Miscellaneous Charges	2,421	0	0			
				9,056	19	5¼
				50,176	6	9
Deduct decrease in Expenditure of the Colonial Agent in London				203	9	9
				£ 49,972	17	0

Public Works.

In the department of Public Works, valuable progress has been made during the past year, the advantages of which will be immediate and permanent. In the department of

The Surveyor General

all minor arrangements have been considered with a view to make such detached surveys as may be immediately required subservient to the great ultimate object of producing the most satisfactory of all land registers—a comprehensive and correct map of the island. Bearing this important object in view, a considerable portion of the disposable force of the department was employed during the early part of 1846 in extensive surveys of the cinnamon plantations which extend on all sides around Colombo; but the failure of the Government to effect advantageous sales of the lots so surveyed compelled a suspension of the operations in that quarter, and enabled the Surveyor General to pursue them elsewhere.

In the central province, a map of one district embracing 30,000 acres has been nearly completed; and simultaneously with the scientific advantage thus secured, allotments of Crown lands to the extent of 2,600 acres have been defined and partly disposed of.

Amongst other classes of surveys in this province to which Mr. Simms' attention has been directed, have been those connected with the improvement of towns. In the town of Badulla, several new streets have been opened, along which allot-

ments have been surveyed and sold, and plans have been prepared for the purpose of enabling the Government to issue grants in perpetuity to persons who have occupied land in that town upon temporary certificates, or who claim prescription under the 8th clause of the Ordinance No. 12, of 1840.

Similar operations were carried on at Nuwera Ellia, and at the close of the year 1846, six allotments of Crown land, adapted for cultivation, containing 260 acres, had been prepared for sale and occupation, the new streets through the Crown land upon the northern side of the main street had been marked out and cleared, and 99 allotments in that locality were ready for sale.

In addition to the operations abovementioned, surveys of 90 tracts of land, containing 4770 acres, were executed during the same year for various purposes; either for sale, for the arrangement of contending claims, or for special reports to Government.

In the eastern province, 17 allotments, containing 5425 acres have been surveyed for sale; and in the northern province, upwards of 1000 acres. Some progress has also been made with a minute survey of the town, and gravets of Jaffna.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The total expenditure of the department during the year 1846, including that from advances, amounted to				5,857	0	0
The amount of recoveries made during that period	732	0	0			
Balance due to the department upon surveys completed	1,421	0	0			
Estimated value of progress with surveys of land for sale, &c., incomplete	450	0	0			
Total in favour of the department .				2,603	0	0
Balance				£3,254	0	0

The Commissioner of Roads,

in his department, has been equally energetic and successful. The subject of internal communication is, of all others, the most important at the present moment in the colony, as thousands of acres are rapidly coming into bearing in the richest plantations, the success of which is essentially contingent on the cost of transporting their produce from the hills for shipment at the coast.

From a sense of the importance of this consideration, the attention of the Government and its expenditure for these purposes have been unremitting during the last five years, and the result has been that within that period, not only have the existing roads been brought from utter neglect into a passable condition, but their extent has been nearly doubled by the opening and construction of new lines.

The extent of roads in Ceylon in 1841, (including the entire coast line from Putlam through Jaffna, Trincomalee, and Batticaloa to Hambantotte,) was 1,572 miles; at the end of 1846 it was 2,358 miles; 786 miles having been opened during the five years.

It is necessary however, to explain that along the 538 miles of coast above-mentioned from Putlam to Jaffna, and thence down the entire eastern coast to Hambantotte the road consists of nothing more than a time-worn track, for the most part over arid sandy flats.

But the 786 miles opened are through all varieties of country, and differ in their state of completion, from that resulting from an expenditure of 20*l.* a-mile in the low flat countries, to that of nearly 500*l.* a-mile in some of the mountain districts.

The following is a statement (fractions excluded) of expenditure on roads, and amount of tolls from 1842 to 1846.

	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	Total.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Expenditure . .	23,147	24,855	35,431	57,166	61,022	201,621
Tolls. . . .	10,988	16,580	19,383	27,288	32,827	107,066
Difference . .	12,159	8,275	16,048	29,878	28,195	94,555

CEYLON.

The following Return shows the sums appropriated and the amount expended on roads within the colony during the year 1846:

By Special Supply Ordinance, No. 5				£30,000	0 0
By Supply Ordinance, No. 7				28,000	0 0
By Supplementary Supply Ordinance, No. 9				17,749	0 0
				75,749	0 0
Repair and upkeep of five principal roads, 348 miles	£19,300	19	9¼		
Ditto second class carriage-roads 200½ miles	4,579	2	6¼		
Roads kept open and preserved from deterioration, 319 miles	2,900	13	6¼		
Roads on which extensive improvements are being made, 335 miles	21,574	9	11		
New roads opened during 1846, 58 miles	1,885	16	10¾		
Departmental and miscellaneous expenditure	10,781	3	7¾		
				61,022	6 3¼
Unexpended balance				£14,726	13 8¼

Having decided that no more roads than those at present ordered, shall be opened, until those already on hand are brought to a state of completion, I have every confidence that the efforts of the Road Department will, for the future, be even more concentrated and effective.

Civil Engineer.

Of the public buildings in progress under the Civil Engineer's Department during the year, the prisons are the most important. The new criminal gaol at Wellicadde, two miles from the Fort of Colombo, has had an addition of 60 separate chambers or cells in one range of two stories divided by a corridor. Two wings have been commenced containing each 20 chambers, and these are to be connected with the main range by an observatory, on the Panoptikon system. A wall 16 feet high, encloses the premises; 200 criminals are confined, and being taught, under the instructions of the Civil Engineers' Department, to work as artificers, &c., they have been extensively employed in the buildings now in progress at the prison. Outside the walls a guard-house, store-room, and cottages for overseers, and other works have been constructed. The whole will be finished at a cost of 4,400*l.* and will, when completed, be the best arranged and most secure public prison in the East.

At Hulfsdorp, in the immediate vicinity of the supreme and district court houses, a prison has been built at a cost of 3,800*l.*; it has eight wards for the confinement of 96 civil prisoners and women, and 26 chambers of 12 by 8 feet for persons under trial for criminal offences.

Extensive alterations have been made at the gaol at Kandy, at an outlay of 1000*l.* A lock-up house at Matele has been enlarged at a charge of 200*l.*, and another at Kaigalle on which 290*l.* has been expended.

A lunatic asylum is far advanced towards completion at Colombo, at a cost of 4,200*l.*, with accommodation calculated for 120 patients and residences for their attendants and medical officer.

The supreme and district court house at Jaffna has been thoroughly repaired, at a cost of 350*l.* A residence is now in course of preparation at Jaffna for the Judges on circuit, which, when completed, will cost 800*l.* At Kandy a commodious police station-house has been constructed for 680*l.*, and another at Kaigalle for 540*l.*

At Peradenia near Kandy, a new residence for the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic garden has been erected at a cost of 800*l.*; and at Colombo, a range of public offices with accommodation for the Civil Engineer, the Surveyor-General, and the Commissioner of Roads have been nearly completed by private contractors for the sum of 3,800*l.* voted by the Legislative Council.

An addition has also been made at a cost of 780*l.* to the Government printing-office to give room for the bookbinding establishment and records; and a record room and other additions have been made to the Colombo cutcherry, and its offices, at a cost of 840*l.* There is still, however, not sufficient room for the numerous records of this office.

At Kandy, an office has been created for the Civil Engineer's Department, at a cost of 340*l.*; and at Nuwera Ellia a Commissariat store-house is in progress on an estimate for 1,570*l.*, superintended by the Royal Engineer Department.

In the Fort of Colombo, a large upper-roomed building with offices, has been erected at a cost of 1,800*l.*, as a rest-house, and let to an hotel-keeper at an annual rent of 150*l.*

At Kurnegalle, a rest-house and offices have been built at a cost of 500*l.*; and at Matela, 16 miles from Kandy, on the Trincomalee road, a rest-house and offices have also been built at a cost of 760*l.*

Five masonry bridges, of from 10 to 30 feet span, have been erected at Colombo, Cotta, Paratareka, Negombo, and Trincomalee, at an expense of 852*l.* A fine bridge of two arches, each 35 feet span, has been thrown across a dangerous river, the Talata Oya, about four miles from Kandy on the Trincomalee road, at a cost of 1,900*l.*; and 2,700*l.* have been voted by the Legislative Council for the repairs of the great wooden bridge across the Mahavilla ganga at Peradenia.

Important improvements have likewise been made, at a serious cost, in the town of Kandy; and the unfortunate frequency of the visits of cholera during the last year, and its ravages amongst the European troops, will render further expenditure indispensable for the completion of the sewage, and the improvement of the artificial lake, to whose noxious exhalations much of the prevailing disease has been, with too much apparent justice, ascribed.

In support of the opinion which I have more than once in this Despatch expressed, as to the healthy and progressive condition of the revenue of Ceylon, notwithstanding temporary fluctuations under individual heads, or the inferences apparently deducible from them, I beg to subjoin a return received from the treasurer of the colony, showing the actual balances to the credit of the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1846, and on the 1st of January, 1847. It will be observed from this document, that notwithstanding the disturbances in the ordinary current of income during the year under review, and the increase of expenditure above that of previous periods, there still remained a balance in hand of 141,000*l.*, after meeting every demand on the colonial exchequer. Mr. Templer's statement is as follows:—

STATEMENT showing the AMOUNT of CASH in the several Treasuries of the Island, on the 1st of January, 1846, the Receipts and Expenditure for the Year, and the Balances of Cash on the 31st of December, 1846.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Balance of the General Treasury, 1st January, 1846	137,161	19	7½			
,, Agent Western Province ,,	10,349	6	5¾			
,, ,, Southern ,, ,,	10,966	3	2¼			
,, ,, Northern ,, ,,	7,946	8	6½			
,, ,, Eastern ,, ,,	8,960	15	1			
,, ,, Central ,, ,,	28,943	0	1			
,, ,, North Western ,,	6,082	15	8¼			
,, ,, London ,, ,,	11,204	8	0			
,, Credits of the Colony for Advances to Queen's Pay and Ordnance Departments, 1st January, 1846	6,483	14	11¼			
	228,068	11	7½			
Deduct Balances due 31st October, 1845, viz.:—						
Government Fort William	3,885	7	0			
,, Fort St. George	2,219	4	8			
,, Bombay	4,553	8	2			
Agents Calcutta	263	0	10¼			
,, Madras	249	15	3½			
,, Bombay	37	8	8			
	11,208	7	9¾			
				216,860	3	9¾
Revenue and Receipts in the Colony, 1846	415,023	5	7¾			
Receipts by Agent, London	1,380	9	7			
				416,403	15	2¾
				633,263	19	0½
Expenditure in the Colony, 1846	464,545	0	10			
,, by the Agent, London	33,659	18	0			
				498,204	18	10
Balance in favour of Ceylon, 31st December, 1846				135,059	0	2½

CEYLON.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Balance of the General Treasury, 31st December, 1846 .		59,972 0 4¼	
,, Agent Western Province ,, .		11,808 16 3	
,, ,, Southern ,, ,, .		9,059 10 3¾	
,, ,, Northern ,, ,, .		8,922 5 4¼	
,, ,, Eastern ,, ,, .		5,446 6 8¼	
,, ,, Central ,, ,, .		26,785 5 8	
,, ,, North Western ,, .		4,891 7 8½	
,, ,, London ,, ,, .		8,721 17 9	
,, Bombay Government, 31st October, 1846 . .	447 3 7½		
,, Agents Bombay . .	61 1 5¼		
,, Government of Hong Kong	627 8 9½		
		1,135 13 10¼	
Credits of the Colony, 31st December, 1846, for Advances to Queen's Pay and Ordnance Departments . . .		9,544 3 7¾	
		146,287 7 7	
Deduct Balances due 31st October, 1846, viz.:—			
	£. s. d.		
Government Fort William . .	1,571 14 8		
,, Fort St. George . .	1,421 7 2		
Agents Calcutta	516 12 10½		
,, Madras	784 15 9		
		4,294 10 5½	
Actual Balance, 31st December, 1846		. .	141,992 17 1½
Recovery above the Amount advanced, and Drafts in transit		. .	6,933 16 11
Memorandum.			
Expenditure in 1846		498,204 18 10	
Revenue and Receipts in 1846		416,403 15 2¾	
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue		. .	81,801 3 7¼
	£. s. d.		
Balances 1st January, 1846 . .	216,860 3 9¾		
,, 31st December, 1846 . .	141,992 17 1½		
Surplus of 1st January, 1846, expended during the year .		74,867 6 8¼	
Recovery above the Amount advanced, and Drafts in transit		6,933 16 11	
			81,801 3 7¼

(Signed) F. J. TEMPLER,
Treasurer.

The sum of 141,992*l.* is not, of course, all represented by bullion in the vaults of the Treasury; it includes the Government notes, amounting to 87,400*l.*, of which nearly one-half are in actual circulation, and the remainder form a portion of the Treasurer's balance. It likewise includes, as the items show, the several amounts which have either been advanced by the Government agents for public works, or which they hold at their cutcherries in readiness for such advances. But with this tangible evidence of the results arising from even an incomplete experiment as to the capabilities of this luxuriant colony, I cannot but feel warranted in the hope which I have expressed as to its future wealth and prosperity attendant on their full development.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the spirit and enterprise with which this has been undertaken by those who have already embarked their capital, and devoted their energies to the task; and with every reasonable diminution from their original expectations, suggested by partial disappointments or less ardent foresight, I have no cause to doubt that they entertain with me, a well-grounded confidence, that judicious investments and sedulous perseverance, are likely to reap as plentiful a reward in Ceylon as in any other portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. (Signed) J. EMERSON TENNENT.

P.S.—Since closing this Despatch, I have succeeded in having the Return alluded to at page 223 completed, and beg to annex it in an Appendix.

J. EMERSON TENNENT.

APPENDIX. CEYLON.

RETURN showing the Gross RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the Year 1846, and the Amount expended under the Special Supply Ordinances of 1844 and 1845, for the Expenditure of a portion of the Surplus Revenue of the Years 1843 and 1844.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Gross Revenue and Receipts of 1846	..	..	..	416,403 15 2¼
Gross Expenditure of 1846 . .	..	..	498,205 8 10	
Deduct amount expended under the Special Supply Ordinances, No. 6 of 1844, and No. 5 of 1845, viz.—				
Under No. 6 of 1844—				
Under the Vote to the Civil Engineer	1,471 11 7¼			
Under the Vote to the Commissioner of Roads . .	77 8 5¼	1,549 0 0½		
Under No. 5 of 1845—				
Under the Vote to the Civil Engineer	865 0 0			
Under the Vote to the Commissioner of Roads . .	17,939 0 4½			
Under the Vote to the Military Engineer; Repairing Fortifications . . .	2,241 7 11¾	21,045 8 4¼		
			22,594 8 4¾	
Precise Expenditure of 1846.				475,611 0 5¼
Precise Excess of Expenditure of 1846 over the income of the Year £				59,207 5 3

Colombo, May 10, 1847. (Signed) W. C. GIBSON.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 43.

(No. 31.) No. 43.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. F. DAVIS, Bart., to Earl GREY.

Victoria, Hong Kong,
MY LORD, 13th March, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the third Blue Book of the colony of Hong Kong, being for the year 1846.

The last exhibited an improvement in the revenue from 9534*l.* to 22,242*l.* The present one shows an increase from the last named sum to 27,047*l.* It would be easy to augment this amount, but I have always kept in view the importance of leaving the trade of the place entirely unfettered. To this end I have not even imposed a tonnage duty on shipping, and have abstained from bringing into operation an ordinance which was drawn up for imposing a duty on wines and spirits imported into the colony. No custom-house whatever is in existence. Revenue.

One of the beneficial results of this perfect freedom of trade has been the fact communicated to your Lordship in my Despatch, No. 141, of 12th December, wherein it appears from the statement of Mr. Consul Macgregor, that a large proportion of the British exports from Canton are previously warehoused in this colony.

An inspection of the comparative statement for the two years, at pages 28 and 29 of the Blue Book, will show that the increase of revenue in the last year has accrued rather from the improved productiveness of existing imposts, than from the enactment of new ones.

By the aid of the revenue levied in the colony, I have been able to dispense with a portion of the sums voted in Parliament for its civil expenditure, amounting, for two years, to 9119*l.*, as detailed in my Despatch, No. 17, of 12th February.

With the strong opinion of the Board of Trade in favour of the tax levied

HONG KONG.

on the consumption of opium, as expressed in the enclosure to your Lordship's Despatch, No. 46, of 24th November, and with my own concurrent convictions on the same subject, I shall continue to derive a revenue from this source, with such modifications of the existing law as time and experience may dictate.

Expenditure.

While the income of this colony has increased during the past year, it is satisfactory to observe, that the total expenditure has diminished, the difference amounting to 6375*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* In my Despatch, No. 137, of 24th November, I had the honour to report retrenchments of a permanent nature, in the reduction of salaries, to the extent of 2800*l.* per annum; and I at the same time suggested further retrenchments to the extent of 1800*l.* yearly.

Military Expenditure.

The military expenditure of this colony is wholly defrayed by the Army and Ordnance Estimates. The reduction of the military establishment and staff, from a field force to the scale of a garrison, will this year effect an important retrenchment in expense, which will be assisted by the change from Indian allowances to ordinary colonial pay.

* * * *

Public Works.

The expenditure on account of public works during the ensuing 12 months will be comparatively large, on account of the building for the public offices, estimated at 14,300*l.*, to be executed by the Ordnance Department. The works already in progress, or of which the reports and estimates have been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, comprise nearly all that are required by the early exigencies of this new colony, with the exception of a court-house, which is at present rented, and of a government house, which I have left to the last.

Report and Blue Books.

In my Report of last year I stated that a good road extended within five miles of the circumference of the whole island, 18 miles being completed out of 23. The remaining five miles are now ordered to be executed, and this work has been commenced. For purposes of military protection as well as police, and for the general traffic and internal communication of the colony, this road is essential.

No. 2.
No. 3.

Appended to this Despatch, are two Reports from the Surveyor-General on the Public Works during 1846, and on the progress of his department. From the former of these it appears, that the value of convict labour in the course of the year is estimated at nearly 700*l.* I find, on examination, that the food and clothing of the prisoners in gaol has amounted to 713*l.*; and hence, it appears, that this necessary expense has been nearly repaid by the labour of the convicts.

The completion of gaols has relieved the Government from a heavy amount of rent paid for the occupation of hired buildings, and, at the same time, greatly augmented the security of the prisoners.

The receipt of a final sanction for the work from your Lordship, has enabled me to commence the erection of a Colonial Church. The first stone of the building was laid by me on the 11th instant, with a large attendance of the colony; and the event is so far memorable, as this is the first Protestant Episcopal Church ever erected on the confines of China. The delay which has arisen from the postponed sanction of Her Majesty's Government, has tended to mature the plans, as well as to accumulate funds. One-third of the expense having been contributed by the inhabitants, I have deemed it right to pass an Ordinance, vesting the property and management of the church partly in trustees chosen by the subscribers, and partly in others nominated by the Governor. A copy of the Ordinance in question will be transmitted by the next mail.

Legislation.

Under the head of Legislation, only seven Ordinances were passed during the year 1846, and four of these were to amend or modify the provisions of previously-existing laws. The most important enactment of the year has been Ordinance No. 3, for the relief of insolvent debtors, which has received the sanction of Her Majesty. From Ordinance No. 7, for the more effectual registration of the Chinese inhabitants, I anticipate the best effects.

Population.

Some apparent diminution in the gross amount of the Chinese population, as compared with last year, is explainable by a more careful system of registration, which, while it gives a truer account of the actual number, relieves us from those who hung loose on the community, and only applied for tickets to make a bad use of them. The number of females and of families has increased from last year, and this (as I before observed) is a very favourable indication, being symptomatic of more fixed habits, and a confidence in our Government.

The return of population is entirely exclusive of the troops, which amount

to about 1300. The English population is 618, of whom 167 are females; and the resident strangers amount in all to 768. HONG KONG.

In my Despatch to Viscount Palmerston, No. 183, of December 28th, I took occasion to point out the remarkable fact, that the progress of this colony presents a most favourable contrast with that of Singapore, at the same period from the commencement, even when reduced to the test of figures Mr. Crawford, formerly resident at Singapore, states, that when that settlement had existed six years, the population consisted of 84 Europeans, and 11,851 Malays, Chinese, and other Asiatics; the revenue, he says, amounted to 87,000 dollars, or 18,125*l.* Hong Kong has not yet reached its sixth year, and the Blue Book for 1846 shows a total population of 22,453 (exclusive of troops), of which 618 are European; while the revenue was 27,047*l.*

The question of climate seems to be finally set at rest. I have already had to report the rapidly progressive improvement in the health of the European troops of this garrison, in proportion as they were provided with good barrack accommodations, and as the general drainage of the colony advanced. The following statement exhibits at one view the extraordinary improvement since 1843:— Climate.

Deaths in European Force.

Year.	Number.
1843	373
1844	216
1845	143
1846	56

The total European force by the "Weekly State" returned to me on the 3rd January, 1846, was 911.

The annual mortality was therefore not more than about six per cent. The colonial surgeon's report shows that the deaths among all persons in civil employ were only 1 in 30-25, or rather more than three per cent., and he concludes by saying, "It thus appears that the year 1846 has been quite as healthy, if not more so, than the preceding one."

There are four educational establishments in Victoria, conducted by Europeans. One of these is under the charge of the colonial chaplain, and teaches the children of the inferior English population. One is for the instruction of both Europeans and Chinese in the Romish religion, and under the direction of the Propaganda Society of Italy. Two are for the exclusive education of Chinese in European knowledge and the Protestant faith, and entirely of a missionary character. Education.

There are four Chinese schools in Victoria, and about nine others in the different parts of the island. I have before observed that some slight contribution from Government to these native seminaries would be attended with a good effect. They teach only the elements of reading, writing, and accounts, and there is nothing exceptionable onthe ground of idolatrous instruction. Neither would they be of a purely eleemosynary character, the greater portion of the expense being borne by the pupils. If these schools were eventually placed in charge of native Christian teachers, bred up by the Protestant missionaries, it would afford the most rational prospect of converting the native population of the island.

Under the head of Christian places of worship, I have to enumerate one English Episcopal church, one Romish church, and four Dissenting chapels in Victoria. There is also a Protestant chapel in the English Cemetery, of a neat and suitable construction, for the performance of the bnrial service. Places of Worship.

Of Pagan places of worship there are four. One being a Mahommedan mosque and three Chinese temples.

In addition to the Danish and American consuls reported in my last, an American vice-consul has been appointed to act at Victoria. The Blue Book will show an increase in the shipping arrived at Hong Kong, of 387 vessels, as contrasted with 334 in the former year; and 130,199 tons, in lieu of 117,210 tons in 1845. Trade.

A branch of the Oriental Bank is established here on a very extensive scale. It issues notes of from 5 to 100 dollars, and these are found such an exceedingly convenient substitute for the former system of paying sums by weight, that the Chinese themselves readily receive and exchange them. Should this

HONG KONG.

bank be chartered, it is likely to prove of great benefit to the general trade with China.

I have received from the Deputy Commissary-General a very favourable account of the circulation of the British coin sent out by the Treasury. He tells me it has proved extremely useful for small payments, and that even the Chinese have brought dollars to him to be exchanged for sterling. He is going to apply for more, to the amount of 10,000*l.*

To judge by the augmented number of respectable Chinese shops, the native trade and industry of this place are on the increase. For many of the products of Chinese manufacture it is no longer necessary to send to Canton, as they can be procured equally well here.

A check has been given to piracy in this neighbourhood by the capture, and conviction before the Admiralty Court, of some pirates, and by the delivery (on demand, according to treaty) of others to the Chinese government. One pirate was condemned and executed here in January last, and three more sentenced to transportation for life.

Police.

The judicial and police departments continue to be the heaviest civil charges of the colony. It is to be hoped that a smaller English police force may by degrees be required, and I would recommend that any future superintendent or inspectors of police be selected from persons on the spot, acquainted as these are with the Chinese population, rather than that members of the metropolitan force should be sent out from England to a community whose habits and language are entirely strange to them, and in respect to whom they are therefore placed at a comparative disadvantage.

I have had the satisfaction to state that the completion of the colonial gaols not only relieves the government from the payment of a heavy rent, but is also likely to be attended with diminished expense in the custody and guarding of prisoners. For the sake of greater security, and with a view to the general welfare of the inmates, I have made it incumbent on one of the magistrates to visit the prisons weekly, and send me a written report on their condition.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl Grey, &c., &c., &c.

(Signed) J. F. DAVIS.

Encl. 1 in No. 43.

Enclosure 1 in No. 43.

EXTRACT from Mr. CONSUL MACGREGOR's Letter, No. 118, dated Canton, 7th December, 1846, to his Excellency Sir John Francis Davis, Baronet, &c. &c.

WITH regard to Canton I would remark, that the greatest proportion of the goods intended for this market are warehoused at Hong Kong, and only sent over when they have been actually sold here, or offer a fair prospect of a prompt sale. This affords our merchants the facility of deferring the payment of duty until the period of importation, although till then the goods are subject to the charge of warehouse rent.

(True extract.)

W. CAINE, Colonial Secretary.

A RETURN of the Number of Merchant Vessels, of all Nations, distinguishing their respective Flags, which cleared at the Custom House of Canton, during the Year ended 31st of December, 1846, proceeding from or bound to the Ports and Places undermentioned, viz.—

Names of Ports and Places.	ARRIVED.										DEPARTED.									
	British.	American.	French.	Dutch.	Belgian.	Danish.	Swedish.	Hanseatic.	Prussian.	Total.	British.	American.	French.	Dutch.	Belgian.	Danish.	Swedish.	Hanseatic.	Prussian.	Total.
London	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	61	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Liverpool and Bristol	28	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	30	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Glasgow, Leith, and the Clyde	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dublin and Cork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Havre and Bourdeaux	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	7
Antwerp	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stockholm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Hamburgh	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Cape of Good Hope	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bombay	72	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74	39	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Calcutta	17	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Madras	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tutocorin	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Siam	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Singapore and the Straits	12	5	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	20	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	7
Batavia and Sourabaya	..	1	..	8	..	..	..	..	1	10	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bali and Lombok	3	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Manilla and the Philippines	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	3	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	14
New York	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	37	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	40
Boston and Baltimore	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Mazatlan and Mexico	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Callao and Lima	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Valparaiso	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sydney, Port Philip, and Hobart Town.	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Sandwich Islands, New Zealand, and Marquesas.	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hong Kong	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	21	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Macao	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Amoy, Ningpo, and Shanghae	13	16	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	32	18	9	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	29
Total	214	64	4	8	1	1	6	5	1	304	207	65	4	8	1	1	6	4	1	297
Tons	92,896	29,049	1,283	2,747	300	305	1,791	1,249	550	130,170	88,880	29,788	1,283	2,574	300	305	1,978	1,097	550	126,755

Canton, 31st December, 1846.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR, Consul.

HONG KONG.

Encl. 2 in No. 43.

Enclosure 2 in No. 43.

Surveyor-General's Office, Victoria,
January 22, 1847.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report upon the works that have been executed during the year last past, as also upon the general state of repair of all the roads and works in the island.

Roads.

The works upon the Queen's Road have consisted in the completion of the service authorized under Report and Estimate, No. 2, of 1844, together with the construction of the side channels, Report and Estimate, No. 13, of 1845, and drains or culverts which were authorized under Reports and Estimates, Nos. 1 and 4, of 1844.

These services, I think, will be found ample for all the requirements of that district, extending from the Ice-house to Ta-ping-shan. In every instance the drains both above and below ground have been found to answer very satisfactorily, and in general that part of the road has been and is at this present moment in very good order, and the only repairs that can in future be called for I hope will consist in the application of sea-sand to the surface, at any rate until wheel carriages become more numerous.

In the district extending from the Canton Bazaar to the Wongneichung Valley, some necessary works have been undertaken, and the direction and levels of the road have been much improved, particularly opposite the new Military Hospital, where the straightening of the line by removing the large projecting rocks has given a view of that fine building, as well as being of service in permitting a freer circulation of air.

The surface is now in very good order. Included in the authority for this work is the proposed bridge at the North Barracks, which is about to be commenced and will be completed before the next heavy rains, so that the public will not be inconvenienced by the stoppage of the road, as they have been for the last two years.

The streets in the town have now almost all the under-ground drains finished, and when the formation of the side channels is completed, the general appearance of the district will be very much improved, and I have every hope that little or no damage will result from the rains next season, notwithstanding the steepness of some of the streets. Much difficulty has been experienced in bringing these streets to the uniform inclination, as originally proposed, in consequence of the impossibility of compelling the lessees to erect their houses on the levels assigned for them, and thus in some instances the door-ways are a little above the road, in others too low. This, however, I have tried to arrange in the most satisfactory manner for those parties, at the same time having due regard to the requirements of the public at large.

The Aberdeen road has been completed during the year (Reports and Estimates, Nos. 12 and 12 A of 1844, and 12 of 1845). No damage of any kind has happened thereto, and the surface repairs on the whole length have not exceeded 13*s.* 6*d.* per mile.

The old road to Stanley has had a thorough repair during the last year, and the means adopted to preserve the surface from such extensive damage as annually occurred thereto, has been found to answer very satisfactorily.

The direction and very objectionable levels upon this line have so often been remarked upon, that it is unnecessary for me to do so now. At present it is in very good order; but the surface repairs upon it must always exceed those of other and less steep roads.

That portion of the line from Tytam to Stanley, which was by far the worst part of it, is now being improved under Report and Estimate, No. 2, of 1846, and when completed I hope will be considered a serviceable road, thus opening a communication with Stanley, which might be made available for wheel carriages, *viâ* Saiwan, the other route being perfectly useless for such a purpose.

The Saiwan and Tytam road was completed and rendered more secure than originally contemplated, under Report and Estimate, No. 9, of 1845, and with the exception of that portion through the quarries at Sookewan, has remained in a very excellent state of repair. The drains and bridges have answered very well indeed, and have been proved to give sufficient water-way during the heaviest rains.

In a country, the hills of which are of so peculiar a formation, the size of these drains and bridges could only be fixed immediately after the heaviest rains by a careful examination of the surface over which the stream passed in the immediate neighbourhood of the proposed site, and notwithstanding the extreme velocity of the water passing in heavy floods which often carries with it stones of nearly half a ton weight, no damage has occurred to the masonry, and the water-way being found to be sufficient, at some future day the wooden platforms of the bridges may be removed, and an arch turned upon the present abutments, which have been constructed with a view to that arrangement. This applies, of course, only to those bridges which have stone abutments.

The bridges, which are entirely constructed with wood on this line, are between Causeway Bay and Sookewan, where the road has been formed entirely on the sands, and a foundation could not be obtained for stone abutments without great expense. In this locality immense quantities of debris from the quarries are washed down the road; it frequently changes the whole course of the stream, and commits great damage by forcing its way across the road, which is invariably destroyed at that point. Many parts of the low land adjoining the road have been raised in one season three or four feet, and at Sookewan the accumulation of this silt has been so great that the water-mark has receded upwards of 100 feet. It has, therefore, been found to be impossible to keep these parts of the line in very complete repair during the rains.

The causeway at Sukunpu has been strengthened, and the inner slope grassed; these works, with the exception of one of the bridges, the concrete backing of which partially failed, have also remained in good order, and required no repairs since their completion in April last, and the pathway round the bay required no repairs up to December last.

The causeway, I think, may be rendered more secure by the erection of sluice-gates at each of the bridges; for during heavy weather, or in a north-east gale, particularly at the most northern bridge, the rush of water on the rise and fall of the tide is so great that the sand is loosened and frequently carried away, notwithstanding the means I have tried to prevent it, by piling above and below, and filling in the space with stone; thus the foundation is insufficient to sustain the weight of the embankment adjoining the abutment, and the surface of roadway sinks in consequence. I intend, therefore, to make an examination of the same for the above object, and submit an estimate for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor. I must here remark that this work has remained for a period of eight months without any repairs being called for.

The repairs upon the Queen's and other roads during the year have only amounted to the sum of 342*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, and including a sum of 58*l.* 10*s.* expended on the Gap road, a distance of 400 yards, has only cost at the rate of 2*d.* per yard, which may be considered a very small sum indeed for surface repairs, where the roads are so much steeper than in England, and where no metalling is used. The sundry repairs to bridges have amounted to 34*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

Buildings.

The three police stations authorized under Report and Estimate No. 8, of 1844, and commenced in October of the same year, were only finished in January of last year; the contractor for this service, although he had a very good price for it, and 1,316·66 dollars beyond the estimate, was a most unsatisfactory workman, and tried every means he could devise to disguise his bad work, and as these buildings were situated at a considerable distance from each other, and having no permanent overseer upon them, he had much in his power, but whenever a discovery of bad work was made it was pulled down; this he invariably objected to, and stopped the workmen; again the workmen were not paid, and so much delay occurring, the contract was completed at day work by the department, and the contractor fined in the amount of 3,900 dollars.

The Registry and Post-offices, together with the fittings for them, were also completed during the past year.

Upon the works at the gaol under Report and Estimate No. 5, of 1845, the expenditure has amounted to 2,287*l.* These works have occupied a longer period in their construction than was originally supposed necessary, in consequence of certain additional services detailed in Report and Estimate No. 8, of 1846.

The contractors for these works were Chinamen, and in general showed a desire to give satisfaction, and although the expense of bringing fresh-water sand up the hill was very great, there is not an instance where the workmen have mixed the lime used in the construction of mortar with the red mud usually employed as a substitute for the sand; thus the execution of the brick-work has been as sound and perfect as it has been possible to make with the materials.

The police station near the Military Hospital (Report and Estimate No. 4, of 1846) was commenced at the latter end of the year, and is making very satisfactory progress, and the police station at Aberdeen, commenced about the same period, is also being proceeded with at present slowly, but the workmanship is very good.

The cost of repairs and other contingencies to public buildings have amounted to the sum of 81*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* during the past year; this is exclusive of the sum of 115*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* which was paid for certain additions and repairs to the Bungalow, at present occupied by his honour the Chief Justice.

All the public buildings at present under my charge are in a tolerable state of repair, with the exception of the offices occupied by the treasurer, auditor, and myself, and I fear that they will not hold together another wet season, or certainly not until the new offices are completed. The timbers of the roof are in some places much decayed, and the verandah so much so that I think it must be taken down immediately to prevent any accident.

The guard-houses and police stations occasionally require repairs to doors and windows, as the occupants are in general careless, and do not sufficiently secure them during the strong winds that sometimes prevail here, and for the more perfect keeping in repair of these buildings in future a careful examination will be made once a month, and any necessary work be executed without delay.

Marine Works.

Three landing-piers were constructed under Report and Estimate No. 10, of 1845, and the contractor executed them in a very satisfactory manner. They are very useful to the community, but a constant deposit of silt occurring in that vicinity, will soon render it necessary to prolong them, or at least for this season clear that material away to enable boats to come closer.

At the Harbour Master's Pier the deposit has been greater than at the three others; this I propose to remove by the convicts, if possible, and place the material upon the roads they are forming in the vicinity.

Convict Labour.

I have now to allude to the work executed by the convicts. At the latter end of the year

HONG KONG.

1845, according to the orders of his Excellency the Governor, a Report and Estimate was prepared for their future work, in order that the value of their labour might be shown satisfactorily. This Report and Estimate, No. 7, of 1845, was accordingly submitted and approved of by his Excellency, with the exception of two items, Nos. 5 and 6, which it was not considered safe to place them upon, from the difficulty of guarding them sufficiently, the locality being in the neighbourhood of the Chinese town Ta-ping-Shang. Therefore the remaining works, embracing four items, were undertaken, estimated at 3346 dollars, and completed during the past year.

Another Report and Estimate, No. 10, of 1846, was prepared by the late Surveyor-General, for further works, upon which the convicts are now employed.

The work executed by these men is, as may be expected, proceeded with but slowly, as they are much incommoded with their shackles, and being obliged to be sent back to gaol earlier than a free Coolie would leave his work. Under these circumstances, I consider they have executed a reasonable quantity of work.

My estimate values each convict at 6*d.*, but this is too high, as many of them are miserable beings, and in cold or rainy weather can give but slight assistance: some are boys. The total number employed during the execution of the above services is 30,000, and the estimate of the work performed, amounting to 697*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, gives the average value of each at about 5¼*d.*

A few trifling repairs have been done by them on Caine Road, but this service is so small I have not considered it necessary to make further mention of.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ST. GEORGE CLEVERLY,
Surveyor-General.

Honourable Major Caine,
Colonial Secretary.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. CAINE, Colonial Secretary.

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cl. 3 in No. 43.

Enclosure 3 in No. 43.

Surveyor-General's Office, Victoria,
January 23, 1847.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report upon the progress of this department during the last year past.

The general routine of the services executed by the officers under my direction has undergone no change since my Report last year, with the exception of the period during which Mr. Gordon had charge as head of the department; and as he had frequent attacks of illness which prevented his attendance at office, he was unable to relieve us from any pressure of work; for instance, I required some months to prepare a new set of plans of the town, showing the houses which have been built since my first survey in 1843. I must therefore defer that work until another opportunity, which I fear will not occur this season, as I must necessarily attend this office from 10 till 4 every day, and Mr. Pope's time will be fully occupied with the works to be executed.

The want of efficient overseers for the works has been much felt; I mean men who are tradesmen, such as bricklayers, carpenters, &c., to remain upon each separate work during its execution, for however strictly a specification may be worded, a contractor will find means to make the work appear in conformity therewith, and it is totally out of the power of the clerk of works to detect bad workmanship without pulling it to pieces. The works are visited as often as possible both by myself and the clerk of works; and in town, Overseer Crawford had charge of all the works, which, being at a considerable distance from each other, rendered the inspection very severe. He is a very serviceable man, and has given great satisfaction.

The hardest work that we have to encounter in this climate, I find to be in surveying or levelling, as the person so engaged is necessarily much exposed to the sun, and if the locality is far removed from Victoria, the best portion of the day is taken up in going to and returning from work. It is hardly necessary for me to remark that we only have three months in the year in which we have a chance of making a good day's work, and even then it is dangerous at times to expose oneself to the sun; the remainder of the year we can only work in the mornings and evenings for two or three hours at the utmost, it is therefore apparent that the amount of work we can perform is very small in comparison with that which could be done in a more temperate climate.

The greatest share of this work necessarily falls to the Civil Engineer and Clerk of Works, Mr. Pope, as he is the only person in the establishment who can give me that assistance.

The next officer in the establishment is road overseer, Mr. Bruce, unfortunately he is unacquainted with the details of the work which I most require from him. The whole assistance I desire from him consists in the general inspection of finished roads and the direction of the convict labour, which is also under the charge of Overseer Matheus, who receives his instructions from Mr. Bruce.

It has been the duty of the Civil Engineer and Clerk of Works to make a "weekly report" upon the progress of the works; but in future, if it should meet the approval of his Excellency the Governor, I beg leave to propose that the Report be made monthly, as a more satisfactory detail might be made of work executed during that period, than for the short space of six days, as in the latter time it occasionally happens that the change in the work is hardly perceptible.

HONG KONG.

This monthly report I propose should include the state of repair of all the public buildings, and estimates be submitted at the same time of the cost of any services that may be necessary for the improvement or repair of them, the same to be done with regard to roads, &c.; this plan, I think, would answer better than the present one, and would be more satisfactory, as showing at a glance the estimated repairs on all Public Works for the month.

On forwarding the Report for the information of his Excellency the Governor, I further propose that the usual requisitions in detail for each item of expenditure that I may consider necessary with reference to the Report, should be prepared by me and submitted for approval in the ordinary manner.

During the year, the number of leases executed has been 203, the number of lots or parts of lots absolutely resold, 71; the number of mortgages on lots, besides sundry assignments, &c. &c. registered in the office amounts to 25, in all 96; of which number 50 have been executed by Chinese, the assignment and memorial of which have been entirely prepared by Mr. Terrant, assisted by the Chinese clerk Keoukitch, in the mode sanctioned by his Excellency the Governor.

I have much satisfaction in stating that the tedious and responsible duty of the preparation of the leases is now nearly brought to a conclusion. This duty was necessarily entailed upon the department in the earlier stages of the colony, but it was a service, properly speaking, belonging to the Crown Solicitor; apparently I have been very slow in completing them, but as the whole work came upon me at once, before my surveys were finished, the Surveyor-General left on sick certificate, and the department was further reduced by the resignation of the draughtsman, this, together with the extensive works which were being executed by us, occupied so much of my time it was impossible for me to proceed with more rapidity; however I trust they have been satisfactorily executed, and with but one or two exceptions I am not aware that I have made any mistake.

One of the clerks, Mr. Harrison, having been appointed Police Rate Assessor and Collector, his attendance at office on Saturdays has been dispensed with, according to the orders of His Excellency the Governor; this occasionally is an inconvenience, but he is in general very attentive, and although rather slow, executes his work quite to my satisfaction.

Mr. Power, the book keeper, is particularly attentive to his duties, which, under the supervision of Mr. Pope, he executes in a very perfect and satisfactory manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ST. GEORGE CLEVERLY,
Surveyor-General.

Honourable Major Caine,
Colonial Secretary.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. CAINE, Colonial Secretary.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(No. 16.) No. 44.

No. 44.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MOODY to Earl GREY.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
MY LORD, March 9, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the Blue Book for the year 1846, accompanied by a general Report as required by the Colonial Regulations.

General Observations.

The objects Her Majesty's Government have had in view in maintaining an establishment in these islands, appears at all times to have been the same; namely, the advantage of shipping in these seas in their passage to and from the countries round Cape Horn, the British Possessions in Australia, and the Southern Ocean. There can be no doubt, also, that due weight has been given to the consideration of the advantages the possession of the islands would afford in the possible case of any future war.

There are different methods by which the above-mentioned object could be attained; but the one which presented the fewest objections, as well as being the most economical and simplest to work out, was to throw open the country for colonization, after having ascertained that it would be consistent with the welfare of British subjects to permit them to occupy it. As this is a matter upon which so many conflicting opinions have been expressed, Her Majesty's Government have wisely withheld from any active or responsible measures, confining themselves to announcing the various authoritative reports they have received, leaving the public to judge for themselves; but, at the same time, establishing a government for the three-fold purpose of holding possession, affording protection to those who have made the

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

islands their home, and ensuring protection to any additional numbers who might arrive, by framing a Government which possesses the germ of extension commensurate with the increase of population and wealth.

Beyond the advantages which could be afforded to shipping through the colonization of the islands, and also their military position, they would be of comparatively little importance to Great Britain, even if fully colonized. Their small area and limited agricultural capabilities, preclude their supporting an extensive population, or giving rise to anything but a very moderate exchange of commodities. Perhaps, as a free port hereafter, with the advance of steam navigation, additional commercial advantages might be derived in connexion with the neighbouring continent. I do not state this to lessen the importance of the colonization of the islands, but merely to show that it should always be valued with reference to extensive maritime interests contingent thereon, and not as a matter "per se."

I am wholly at a loss to explain why merchant vessels have not endeavoured to avail themselves of the many advantages these islands offer even now, such as water, fresh meat, and rest to their crews, with no harbour dues, or other usual expenses. The harbour at which the seat of Government is fixed is land-locked, but easily entered: this harbour is also situated at the extreme leeward point of the group, and the ground around it is the land usually sighted by passing ships, for the purpose of making corrections in their "course."

I think I should under-estimate the number in stating that 1000 vessels of all nations pass and repass these islands in going to or returning from the Pacific in the course of a year, and yet not more than 30 ships visit the islands during that period, even including the few who come direct from England and the adjoining continent and return without passing Cape Horn. The number has, certainly, though hitherto but slowly, increased, and it is to be expected that the increase will take place much more rapidly in consequence of the operations which will arise from Mr. Lafone's connection with the islands. The increase in the number of vessels calling at the islands will produce a material advance in the settlement of the colony, and fulfil the chief object of its formation.

Civil Establishment.

The civil establishment of the islands consists of the governor, chief clerk, who also holds the office of clerk to the councils (for which he does not receive any additional salary), second clerk, surveyor, colonial surgeon, who also is health officer for the Port, for which he receives 50*l.* per annum, and the harbour master. The salaries attached to these offices are provided for by the Parliamentary grant, and will be found at page 54 of the Blue Book. The surveyor not having yet arrived is not included in that return; the salary of his office is 300*l.* per annum.

Judicial Establishment.

This establishment consists of the stipendiary magistrate, who receives a salary of 400*l.* per annum, also provided by Parliamentary grant. He is chairman of the Supreme Court which is held before him and one or more justices of the peace. The Supreme Court is, at present, the only court of judicature in the islands; in it are tried all matters, with the exception of such minor cases as would be decided by two justices of the peace in England. These cases are decided by the stipendiary magistrate alone. The Supreme Court sits four times a near in the town of Stanley.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

This establishment consists of the colonial chaplain, who is the only clergyman in the colony; he receives a salary of 300*l.* per annum out of the Parliamentary grant.

Councils.

There are two councils, the Executive Council and the Legislative Council; the councillors are named at pages 44 and 46 in the returns; they derive no pecuniary advantage from their situation. The Executive councillors are, at present, only two in number, and they hold their places during the Queen's pleasure. The Legislative Council is composed of the two justices whose names stand first in order in any general Commission of the Peace, such commission being renewable or revocable by the governor. The governor presides in each council.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The government of the colony is supported almost entirely by the Parliamentary grant, the amount derived from other sources does not much exceed 1000*l.* per annum, and has chiefly arisen from the sale of beef; no taxes or duties are, at present levied in the colony. The expenditure has chiefly consisted in defraying the salaries of the government officers, the expense of the public works, of rations for the workmen, of the maintenance of the government cattle establishment, and of incidental services as shown in the following summary for the past year, namely—

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Balance of preceding year	2	14	1½
Parliamentary grant	7686	10	4
Received in the colony.			
By sale of beef 210 12 10			
Payments for rations 330 2 8½	1078	3	4½
Sale of unserviceable stores, fines, &c. . 240 9 10½			
Crown land's revenue 296 18 0			
Total revenue	£8767	7	10

Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.
Establishment, Civil, Judicial, and Ecclesiastical	1775	8	3
Public Works, labour and materials	3413	12	1½
Maintenance of Government herd of cattle	683	11	7¾
Incidental services, including freight of stores and provisions to the colony, purchase of tools, stationery, &c.	859	1	1¾
Purchase of rations	149	10	0
Crown lands revenue placed in distinct fund	296	18	0
Total Expenditure	£7178	1	2

Education.

A day school has been established, at which thirteen children, being the greater part of those in the town of Stanley, regularly attend. The schoolmaster receives an allowance from Government of 20*l.* per annum. The parents of the children also contribute towards his support 6*d.* a-week for each child. The total salary of the schoolmaster averages, therefore, 40*l.* per annum.

Commerce.

The commerce of the colony is, as may be supposed, exceedingly trifling; it consists chiefly of importing timber, lime, bricks, flour, sugar, coffee, and British manufactured goods; and exporting hides, seal-skins, and a few barrels of oil. I have no means of ascertaining the quantities, there being no customs establishment; but from such information as I have been able to gather, the following average summary of exports, for the last three or four years, may be considered an approximation to the truth:—

	£.	s.	d.
400 hides, at 10*s.* each	200	0	0
250 barrels of oil, at 45*s.* each	562	10	0
1000 seal-skins (hair), at 3*s.* each	150	0	0
Other articles—horns, bones, tussac-seed, whalebone, &c.	250	0	0
	£1162	10	0

Agriculture.

In a former part of this Report, I have mentioned Mr. Lafone's name; this gentleman is a wealthy merchant of Monte Video, who has lately entered into terms (as your Lordship is aware) with Her Majesty's Government for the purchase of an extensive tract of country in this colony, and the possession of the numerous herds of cattle and horses, hitherto the property of the Crown. When this gentleman's undertakings are fully commenced, the whole character of the colony, in respect of agriculture, will be changed. Hitherto, the only operations which might come under this head, are the Government herd of cattle kept up to supply the settlement, and vessels calling in for beef, and a small grazing farm belonging to a colonist.

Population.

Since the date to which the census was made up, 106 emigrant have arrived in the employment of Mr. Lafone; this, with a few other smaller additions, makes the population of the colony about 270.

Public Works.

Three years since, the seat of Government was removed from Port Louis to Port William, an uninhabited spot, where the labour of settling had to be commenced, "*de novo*." The circumstances of the number of artificers and labourers being so extremely few, and the supply of building materials so precarious, have caused these labours to be extended over the last three years, and they must con-

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Conclusion.

tinue for a short time longer, though many of the works, most pressingly needed, are now in course of completion.

I have not made any observations relative to the climate, soil, productions, or capabilities of the islands, nor on the nature of the country, its harbours, rivers, or mountains, as all the information I could give on these subjects, is contained in the general Report I had the honour to address to Lord Stanley on the 14th April, 1842. I have now resided here upwards of five years, and have found no reason to alter the opinions expressed in that despatch.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. C. MOODY, Governor.

Printed by William Clowes and Sons, Stamford Street,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1847 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies: in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS,

AND OF THE

UNITED STATES OF THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1847.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,

1848.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY W. CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1848.

PLANS.

Map of the Bahamas . . . *to face page* 44
Map of St. Lucia . . . . ,, 102

SCHEDULE.

NORTH AMERICA.

PLACE.	No.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
			1848		
NOVA SCOTIA	1.	Sir J. Harvey . . .	Oct. 8 . .	General Report on the Condition and Resources of the Province .	1
NEW BRUNSWICK . . .	2.	Sir W. M. Colebrooke .	April 8 .	Enclosing Blue Book for 1847, with Remarks thereon . . .	14
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	3.	Lieut.-Gov. Campbell .	May 8 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847	17
NEWFOUNDLAND	4.	Sir J. G. Le Marchant.	May 4 .	Forwarding Blue Book for 1847. —Report upon the state of the Colony, its Present Condition, and Future Prospects . . .	18
				Return of the Population, &c., of Newfoundland, according to the Census of 1845	32
				Return of the Population, &c., of St. John's	33
	5.	Earl Grey	June 2 .	Acknowledgment of above Report	33
BERMUDA	6.	Governor Elliot . .	April 20 .	Forwarding Blue Book for 1847— Report on the general state of the Colony	33
				Expenditure incurred by great Britain for the Protection of Bermuda, and in aid of the Civil Establishment, from Jan. 1, 1845 to Dec. 31, 1847 . . .	40
				Bullion Imported from England since the abolition of the Mexican system of supply . . .	40
				Revenue of Bermuda for the years 1845, 1846, and 1847 . . .	42
				Imports and Exports for years ending 5th Jan. 1847 and 5th Jan. 1848	42
	7.	Earl Grey	June 2 . .	Acknowledgment of above Report	43
	No Report received from CANADA.				

WEST INDIES.

BAHAMAS	8.	Governor Mathew . .	April 29 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report on the state of the Colony	44
				Map of the Bahamas	44
				Meteorological Table for 1847 .	51
				Return of Crown or Waste Land in the Bahamas, 1847 . . .	51
				Report of the Board of Education for the year 1847	51
				Report of the Trustees of the Nassau Public Library and Museum	59
				Report by the Gaol Board on Prison Discipline	59
GOVERNMENT OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS. — BARBADOS	9.	Governor Reid . . .	May 24 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Annual Report . . .	61
				Letter from Chief Justice Sir Bowcher Clarke on the subject of Itinerant Courts of Appeal . .	62
GRENADA	10.	Governor Reid . . .	April 18 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with the Lieut.-Governor's Annual Report	70
				Quantity of Sugar manufactured in Grenada, years 1828, 1829, 1830, 1835, and from 1838 to 1847	74
				Number and Tonnage of Vessels which Entered Inwards and Cleared Outwards at St. George, Grenada, during the year ended 5th Jan. 1848	74
				Value of Imports and Exports for Three Years ending 5th Jan. 1848	75

WEST INDIES—*continued.*

	PLACE.	No		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
				1848.		
GOVERNMENT OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS.	GRENADA—*continued.*				Abstract of Revenue and Expenditure, 1847	75
	TOBAGO	11.	Governor Reid . . .	May 12 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with the Lieut.-Governor's Annual Report	76
					Return of Land sold by the Commissioners of the Crown between 1765 and 1771	80
	ST. VINCENT . . .	12.	Governor Reid . . .	July 25 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Letter from Colonial Secretary in reference to it; and Lieut.-Governor's Annual Report	80
					Return of Immigrants imported from Madeira between March 1, 1845, and June 1, 1847 . .	99
	ST. LUCIA	13.	Governor Reid . . .	May 29 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Lieut.-Governor's Annual Report	102
					Map of St. Lucia	102
GOVERNMENT OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.	ANTIGUA	14.	Governor Higginson .	June 1 . .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon . . .	107
					Report by the Actuary on the Present Condition of St. John's Savings' Bank	111
					Revenue and Expenditure of Antigua for the Years 1846 and 1847.	111
					Replies to Governor's Queries respecting the present State of Schools and the Condition of the Labouring Classes	112
	ST. KITTS	15.	Governor Higginson .	March 10 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Lieutenant-Governor's Report thereon	114
	MONTSERRAT . . .	16.	Governor Higginson .	March 10 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with a Report from the President administering the Government on the present Condition and future Prospects of the Island	115
					Report from the Stipendiary Magistrate; Rate of Wages; mode of paying Labourers, &c. . .	123
					Report from the Colonial Treasurer, Duties and Taxes imposed; Loans, &c.	124
					Quantity of Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, exported annually since the Year 1832, amount of Imperial Duties received, and Number of Ships leaving Montserrat for Great Britain, from 1832 to 1846	126
					Names of all Persons owning or possessing Freeholds in the Town of Plymouth, with value of their Properties	126
					Return of Sugar and Stock Estates, their estimated Value and name of Owner, &c.	128
					List of Estates and Houses sold by the Marshal within the last three years	130
					Address of Mr. President Baynes to the Legislature	132
	VIRGIN ISLANDS . .	17.	Governor Higginson .	May 4 . .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon from the President administering the Government	135
	NEVIS	18.	Governor Higginson .	May 8 . .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon from the President administering the Government	138
	DOMINICA	19.	Governor Higginson .	July 22 .	Transmitting Blue Book for 1817, with Report thereon by the President administering the Government	140

WEST INDIES—*continued.*

PLACE.	No.	Date. 1848.	SUBJECT.	Page
BRITISH GUIANA	20. Governor Light	May 3	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, together with some Observations on the state of the Colony	141
			Charges by Mortgagees to Speculators	146
			Cases adjudicated by the Police Magistrate from January 1 to December 31, 1847	147
			Recapitulation of Prisoners arrested in the three counties of British Guiana from 1st January to 31st December, 1847	148
			Cases tried before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice for the counties of Demarara and Essequibo during the year 1847	148
			Number of Prisoners received, or who were released or died at the Penal Settlement, 1847	151
			Classification of Crimes and Offences of Prisoners sentenced to the Penal Settlement in 1847	151
			Rations supplied to Prisoners at the Penal Settlement	151
			Valuation of Labour performed, and Materials produced, at the Penal Settlement in 1847	152
			Expenditure on account of the Penal Settlement, 1841 to 1847 inclusive	152
			List of Causes set down for Trial at the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Guiana on Monday February 7, 1848	153
			List of Cases postponed to Session 1st May, 1848	155
			List of Estates sold at Execution Sale	156
			Report of Auditors of Accounts waiting the Court's Orders thereon	157
			Number of Estates (Boedels) the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	158
			Ditto ditto for the three years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	159
			Number of Plantations sold at Execution Sale, the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	159
			Ditto ditto for the three years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	160
			Report to the Governor from the Administrator-General	160
HONDURAS	21. Sir C. E. Grey	Oct. 5	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, and accompanying Letter from Her Majesty's Superintendent	161
	22. Sir C. E. Grey	Oct. 10	Transmitting General Report by the Superintendent of Honduras, for 1847	163
			Revenue of British Honduras for the Year 1847	166
			First General Report of the Fancourt Dispensary	166
TRINIDAD	23. Lord Harris	Feb. 21	Forwarding Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon	169

No Report received from JAMAICA.

THE MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICA.

PLACE.	No.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
			1848.		
MALTA	24.	Governor R. More O'Ferrall	Nov. 20	Forwarding Blue Book for 1847, with Remarks thereon	177
IONIAN ISLANDS	25.	Lord Seaton	July 9	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon	181
SIERRA LEONE	26.	Acting-Governor Pine	Oct. 27	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon	187
				Report of Mr. Lawson on the best means of Draining the Grass-field	202
			1847.		
GOLD COAST	27.	Lieut.-Gov. Winniett	Dec. 31	Forwarding Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon	203

No Reports received from GIBRALTAR, the CAPE of GOOD HOPE, and the GAMBIA.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

			1848.		
NEW SOUTH WALES	28.	Sir C. A. FitzRoy	May 20	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Remarks thereon	206
				Statistics of New South Wales	211
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND	29.	Sir W. Denison	June 3	Forwarding Blue Book for 1847, with Remarks thereon	231
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	30.	Acting-Governor Irwin	April 13	General Report on the State of the Colony	237
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	31.	Lieut.-Governor Robe	June 15	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon	241
				Statistics of South Australia	245

No Report received from NEW ZEALAND.

EASTERN COLONIES.

ST. HELENA	32.	Sir P. Ross	May 1	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847, with Report thereon	259
MAURITIUS	33.	Sir W. M. Gomm	April 10	General Report on the State of the Colony	261
CEYLON	34.	Viscount Torrington	July 4	General Report on the State of the Colony	264
				Cost of 100 Acres of Land, and planting the same with Cocoa Nuts till the end of the fifth Year	278
				Return on 100 Acres of Cocoa Nut Land when in full bearing	278
				Registered Tonnage of Vessels in the Year 1847, as compared with 1846	284
				Maximum and Minimum Rates for purchasing and selling Bills on England and the Presidencies, in each of the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847	285
				Expenditure on the formation and repair of Roads during the Year 1847	287
				Revenue and Expenditure of Ceylon for 1847, as compared with 1846	290
				Return of Lands under Coffee cultivation	295
				Dr. Gygax's Geological Survey	295
				Report of the Master Attendant, on the Pearl Banks	297
				Abstract of Returns of Cash Balances of the General Treasury and of the Six Provincial Cutcherries of Ceylon on the last day of October, November, and December, 1847	299
	35.	Viscount Torrington	July 5	Enclosing Report on the Coffee blight of Ceylon, by G. Gardner, Esq., F.L.S.	300
HONG KONG	36.	Sir J. F. Davis	Feb. 26	Report on the Blue Book for 1847.	306
FALKLAND ISLANDS	37.	Governor Moody	Feb. 9	Transmitting Blue Book for 1847.	309
			1847		
	38.	Governor Moody	Sept. 30	Capabilities of the Islands	309

REPORTS

EXHIBITING

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

(No. 56.) No. 1.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir J. Harvey, K.C.B., to Earl Grey.

Government House, Halifax,
October 18, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received November* 1, 1848.)

Introduction.

1. In transmitting last year the annual Blue Book I apprized your Lordship of my inability, from the very limited period of my residence in Nova Scotia, to forward with it a general report that would be satisfactory to your Lordship, or that would convey to Her Majesty's Government a faithful picture of its condition and its resources. I proceed now to perform that task, and, referring to the volume just completed for minute details, will endeavour to furnish such general information as may be acceptable to the Imperial authorities, and useful to those who may desire to immigrate or to seek, in the commerce or varied industry of this colony, an investment for their capital.

Territorial extent.

2. The province of Nova Scotia, though the smallest of the North American group except the island of Prince Edwards, possesses so many advantages peculiar to itself, stands to the surrounding colonies in so many interesting relations, is so thoroughly British in all its social aspects, occupies a position so important as a naval station, and a medium of communication between the Old World and the New, that its value is not to be estimated by mere territorial extent. Its length from east to west (including Cape Breton, divided into three counties) is 350 miles; its breadth from 50 to 80 miles. The area upwards of 16,000 square miles, of which, perhaps, 3000 are covered with water. There are no mountains of great magnitude or remarkable elevation; ranges of highlands, seldom exceeding 500 feet above the level of the sea, run through the country, generally from east to west; and, with less prominent hills and undulations, give a pleasing variety to the scenery. The land under tillage in 1838 comprised 400,000 acres. There is, perhaps, an equal amount chopped, used as pasturage, or yielding from the virgin soil, by the rude process common to new countries, a valuable portion of subsistence to recent settlers. A very large part of the whole, perhaps 9,000,000 acres, is still covered with primeval forest, or has only changed its aspect for the worse from the action of fires, which, in the heat of summer, often run over uncultivated portions of the country, deforming its surface and injuring its fertility.

Inland waters.

3. Though Nova Scotia can boast of no very large lakes or rivers, few countries of its size present a greater variety, or are more conveniently or abundantly watered. Lake Rosignol, the largest in the province, situate in the county of Queen's, is stated to be about 30 miles in length. The Shubenacadie river is, perhaps, the most important, being upwards of half a mile wide at its mouth, draining into the Basin of Mines, an extensive chain of lakes, and having a powerful ebb and flow of tide for 25 miles. The Lahave, the Annapolis, the East River of Pictou, the Avon, the St. Croix, and several others, navigable by small vessels for some distance from the sea, are valuable accessaries to commerce, and furnish great facilities for the shipment and exportation of the productions of the surrounding agricultural or mineral districts. The smaller streams tributary to these, or draining the country by independent channels, are numerous, and furnish an amount of water-power for mill-sites and other manufacturing purposes of which no general description can convey an adequate idea. This exhaustless resource, as yet but slightly called into profitable exercise, will, at no distant day, as population and capital increase, and a more liberal policy pervades the commercial legislation of this continent, powerfully stimulate the manufacturing industry of a people in whose soil coal and iron

NOVA SCOTIA.

are most abundantly combined. The number of small lakes in Nova Scotia, particularly on its southern side, may be estimated by the fact that nearly 100 are to be found between Halifax and Saint Margaret's Bay, a tract of country that neither in length nor breadth exceeds 20 miles.

Harbours and basins.

4. But even more important than its inland waters may be ranked its noble harbours, estuaries, and deep-sea basins, most of them open and navigable at all seasons of the year. The centre of Cape Breton, giving to its three counties in nearly their whole extent a double sea-coast, is occupied by a broad arm of the sea, navigable by vessels of any size, and affording facilities for the import and export of commodities rarely in any country surpassed. The basin of Annapolis, into which flows the river of that name, though of less extent, is a noble estuary, sheltered by mountain ranges, opening to the Bay of Fundy through a narrow gorge, navigable by large vessels and accessible at all seasons of the year. Young as the country is, the shores of this basin, for an extent of 30 miles, are highly cultivated; they are overlooked by smiling cottages, that are surrounded by waving corn-fields or embosomed in extensive orchards, and present, in the summer season, many features of which the people are justly proud. The Basin of Mines is still more remarkable. It is a continuation of the Bay of Fundy, the rushing tides of which (rising and falling 60 feet) expand after passing through the strait formed by Blowmedon and Parrsborough, into a broad basin, which washes the shores of four of the most fertile of the midland counties, receiving into its bosom 19 rivers, and, by its powerful ebb and flow for miles up and down many of them, affording for navigation singular facilities which even adverse winds cannot control. Along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, from Cape Sable to Cape North, noble harbours, open at all seasons of the year, are numerous. Some of these are of such depth and extent that their dimensions often contrast strangely with the limited commerce which as yet floats upon their bosoms. Shelburne, Halifax, Sheet Harbour, are unsurpassed in any country that I ever saw; and many others, with roadsteads and sheltered anchorages and arms of the sea innumerable, invite, as it were, the commerce of the world, and afford to Her Majesty's ships, employed in peace or war upon the Atlantic, ample accommodation. These harbours, obviously, were never intended by Providence solely for the use of the inhabitants, however numerous they may become, of this small province, the rugged shores of which they indent. Already the Nova Scotians are becoming, to a large extent, the carriers to Canada of tropical and foreign productions. It is confidently anticipated that vessels from the shores of the great lakes, passing Quebec and Montreal, will bring their cargoes down the St. Lawrence to this port, and it is daily becoming more apparent that, at no distant period (from the closed navigation of the Gulf and River of St. Lawrence throughout so many months of the year, even without a railroad, and with it there can be no doubt of the fact) the fine harbours of Nova Scotia must become entrepôts for the extensive regions which lie beyond them.

Soils.

5. The soils of Nova Scotia are various along the southern shore, washed by the Atlantic; a belt of granite rock forms the basis, extending, in many places, 20 miles into the interior. This region is the least fertile, and, being the first which strangers coming from Europe or the United States see, naturally creates an unfavourable impression; but even this has its resources. A valuable fishery, inferior only to that of Newfoundland, extends along its whole front, the fruitful nursery of an active coasting and foreign trade. All the best harbours are situated in this region, that of the capital forming a central station and basis of commercial operations. The chief towns, Yarmouth, Liverpool, Halifax, are also on this side, main roads connecting them in various directions with the rich lands of the interior. Nor is this tract of country entirely destitute of agricultural resources. Except along some of the headlands, from the bald rocks of which the ceaseless surge of the Atlantic has swept every trace of soil or vegetation, there is a covering of earth, generally a stiff clay, often, as on the front lands of Lunenburg, Halifax, and Yarmouth, and on the "hardwood hills," everywhere scattered through the barrens, of great depth and proved fertility. The labour of clearing lands on this side of the province is very severe, from the prevalence of surface-stone; but, when cleared, it is valuable, from its proximity to the open harbours, the fisheries, and the growing commercial towns. The granite disappears altogether, except in one or two places, at an average distance of 20 miles from the sea, slate forming the basis of the upland in the immediate rear, particularly in the centre

of the province. Beyond this is the region of fertility, the soil being excellent, and stone (except quarries of grindstone and freestone in the counties of Pictou and Cumberland) rarely to be seen. This, for agricultural purposes, by far the most important portion of the province, presents to the husbandman three kinds of country,—the upland, the intervale, and the marsh. The upland in the counties of Inverness, Sydney, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, Annapolis, and Digby, is generally fertile and free from stones. Along the banks of many rivers, draining these extensive tracts, are found the intervales, being narrow strips of light alluvial soil, above the head of the tide, and skirting the streams, until near their head-waters the mountains close in and make the descent too rapid to admit of deposits being formed. These intervales are not more fertile than good upland, but are generally preferred: some of them, overflowed by the freshets, which bring down rich particles of soil from higher elevations, will produce hay without manure; others, secure from flowage, and requiring no expense to dyke them from the sea, make excellent tillage land, easily worked from their presenting level surfaces and a light yet fertile soil. Such of these intervales as are cultivated bear grain and green crops well, perhaps with less manure than upland usually requires, but they do not retain it so tenaciously, and, besides, are earlier struck with frost.

Marshes.

6. The dyked marshes of Nova Scotia, formed along the banks of all the rivers flowing into the Bay of Fundy and Basin of Mines, are the real wealth of the province, and redeem her from the lower level, which, but for them, she must have occupied as an agricultural country. I have said that the tides of the bay of Fundy rise and fall about 60 feet. The tide-wave, pressed on by the mass of waters in the rear, rushes with resistless velocity up the beds of the streams, meeting and controlling the waters descending towards the basin, and overflowing with a rich deposit the flat lands, which extend on either side. The receding tide leaves these covered with rich mud, successive layers of which, deposited in the lapse of years, and gradually overgrown with wild grasses (which, as they rise, intercept and bind together fresh particles of soil), form the marsh lands of Nova Scotia, which have been cropped without manure for 150 years. The cost of protecting these lands is not very heavy compared with their intrinsic value, which is hardly yet sufficiently estimated by those who own them; but their comparative worth may be judged by the fact, that, while the best upland in Nova Scotia, in favourable situations, except on the the peninsula of Halifax, rarely sells higher than 10*l.* an acre, from 20*l.* to 50*l.* is perhaps the average price of dyke, while woodland or pasturage, on the hill sides, but a few miles in the rear, will scarcely command 1*l.*

Population.

7. Ten years have elapsed since an official census of the population was taken. Though imperfect, it was recognised as an approximation to an accurate return. The numbers then were 200,000. A Bill was prepared, at my suggestion, and introduced by the Secretary last session, providing for a renewed census, and for the collection of more extensive statistical returns than at present exist in this province. The Bill was, on reflection, deferred, because had these returns been taken this year, they would not have furnished so faithful a picture of the country as was to have been desired. The failure of the potato and other crops, felt so severely in Europe, has also been experienced in Nova Scotia. In 1845 the potato rot made its appearance, and was in that year very destructive, sweeping away nearly the whole crop. In 1846, sparing the early potatoes, it destroyed those which had been planted later in the season. In 1847 there was immense loss, partly from the rot, and in part from the potato not growing, in consequence of the unsoundness of the seed. In each of these years the weevil or fly destroyed a very large proportion of the wheat. These failures were followed by effects similar to those produced, on a larger scale, in the mother country, within the same period. The sudden loss of so great a quantity of food had, in some of the poorer counties, to be supplied by the liberality of the legislature; and as bread stuffs and seed had to be extensively imported, the drain of the precious metals produced, as in Europe, a corresponding depression of trade, followed, when the panic was at its height in England, by several commercial failures. From this depressed condition the country is slowly recovering. A few bountiful harvests will restore to the inhabitants their accustomed supplies. In the mean time it is consolatory to reflect, that in no part of the province, even in those three years of scarcity, has life been lost for lack of food. It will be obvious to your Lordship that, a census taken at this time,

NOVA SCOTIA.

when stock has been largely reduced and many of the labouring population have been driven abroad in search of employment, would be imperfect. I must, therefore, apologize for omitting much that would properly belong to this Report; but hope to be able to supply the deficiency in some subsequent year. The numbers at the present time may be safely estimated at 300,000.

8. The population of Nova Scotia is now chiefly composed of a native race, sprung directly or indirectly from the three great families of the United Kingdom; English, Irish, and Scotchmen, are numerous. The Irish are found in large numbers only in the capital; the Scotch chiefly in the eastern counties. The Western and Midland counties are principally occupied by the descendants of the loyalists, whose blood is English. The county of Lunenburg is inhabited by a race, sprung from a body of German and Swiss Protestants, who emigrated from Rotterdam in 1753. There are several settlements of French Acadians, the township of Clare containing the largest and most important. There is no war of races here, nor jealousies on account of origin. Men of different lands cherish their national reminiscences and attachments, with mutual respect for each other's feelings, and their descendants form one race, and are known by but one name. The Indians are still a distinct people; but there are only a few hundreds of them left in the province.

Religion.

9. The religious divisions are those of the United Kingdom, and of North America generally. The design of the original French adventurers was to establish the Roman Catholic Church; the leading men of the Loyalist emigration did establish the Church of England, but Congregationalists and members of other churches were numerous among their followers. Dissent increased, from various causes, and the Dissenters, reinforced by more recent emigration from the old country, chiefly of Presbyterians from North Britain, and Catholics from Ireland, form now a great majority of the population. The five largest religious bodies are Churchmen, Presbyterians, Catholics, Methodists, and Baptists; the proportions, as shown by the census of 1827, were—

Churchmen . . .	28,659
Presbyterians . . .	37,225
Catholics	20,401
Methodists . . .	9,408
Baptists	19,790
Other denominations. .	8,365

These proportions are, probably, still preserved. Religious distinctions are attended with few inconveniences. The different churches are sustained by those only who take an interest in them.

Education.

9. Though the system of education hitherto adopted in Nova Scotia has had its defects, still it has insensibly diffused over the country a fair share of intelligence. The settlers from New England and the adjoining states brought with them their attachment for common schools and a commendable ambition for the establishment of higher seminaries. The Presbyterians from Scotland also introduced their familiar acquaintance with the machinery and advantages of education, even in a comparatively poor country, and the active exertions of both bodies have given a stimulus to improvement which is now perceptibly operating over the whole mass. A Common School Act that divides the province into districts, in which the people appoint their own trustees and manage their schools on a popular basis, controlled by Boards of Commissioners appointed by the executive, has been in operation in Nova Scotia since 1826. It comes up for revision by the Legislature every three or four years, when improvements, suggested by experience, are introduced. The number of common schools in operation in 1847 was 1025, in which 34,380 children were instructed. In addition to these a respectable high school or academy is maintained in each county.

Colleges.

10. Collegiate education, owing to the rivalries and distrust which peculiar circumstances have generated, though it has cost the province much money, is still at a very low ebb. Unfortunately the college originally founded in 1802, at a time when it was supposed that unity of religious faith might be established in Nova Scotia, excluded from its chairs and its honours all who did not subscribe certain tests, similar to those which are required at Oxford and Cambridge. And although this exclusiveness was afterwards removed, it had produced jealousy, opposition, and finally an almost total abandonment by the bulk of the population of what was confessedly, considering the early period at

which it was founded, a very respectable institution. Others sprung up in different parts of the province and connected with different interests. In a country the combined resources of which would be required to maintain one efficient university, each religious body has essayed to found its college upon denominational principles. The Legislature was, at first, forced to countenance this system, but latterly, as its absurdity became more apparent, has vainly endeavoured to remove the obstacles which sectarian rivalry and the personal interests of gentlemen, who, from time to time, became connected with these seminaries, presented. These have, hitherto, opposed obstructions to a union of interest and an adequate provision for the liberal endowment of a university that might give to the youth of Nova Scotia the sound education and higher polish which, from their natural endowments, they are so well fitted to receive.

11. Lord Dalhousie and Sir James Kempt, foreseeing the embarrassments likely to arise from the multiplication of colleges, laboured to effect a union, which was subsequently strongly recommended by Lord Stanley, Lord Glenelg, and other colonial secretaries. Whether my government will be in a condition to deal with the question effectually I regard as extremely problematical, but it would afford me much satisfaction to give my assent to a measure which would place the higher branches of education on a more respectable and permanent foundation.

Climate.

12. The climate of Nova Scotia is affected by its almost insular position. In Canada and those portions of New Brunswick remote from the sea, winter commences and breaks up with a certainty and endures with a steadfastness here unknown. In Nova Scotia there is sometimes sledding and hard frost for weeks before Christmas; and perhaps in the following year the plough may be seen in the fields as late as the 10th of January. The north-west winds generally blow for three or four days successively, during which the air is clear and bracing, and are usually followed by gentler airs from the south or south-east, when rain and sleet dissolve the snow and break up the winter roads. The springs are tedious; "winter" not only "lingering in the lap of May," but chilling the atmosphere of June. The summer heats for a brief season are excessive, vegetation is singularly rapid, and the autumn, which includes the Indian summer, is delightful. The thermometer ranges from 18 to 70, and the table below will convey an idea of the sudden rises and depressions.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE for HALIFAX.

MONTHS.	Thermometer.		
	Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum.
January . . .	42	20	2
February . .	40	18	10
March . . .	52	25	6
April . . .	54	30	8
May	60	40	20
June . . .	68	50	30
July	80	63	40
August . . .	90	70	55
September . .	79	51	48
October . . .	68	51	30
November . .	59	38	18
December . .	46	25	7

Nova Scotia is very healthy, and the agues and bilious fevers of Western Canada are unknown.

Agriculture.

13. In agriculture this province (though to the eye of a skilful husbandman presenting many deficiencies, common perhaps to all new countries, and susceptible of vast improvement,) has yet reached, compared with other colonies, a very respectable status. Prince Edward Island having no fishing, manufacturing, or mining population to support, and a light soil unincumbered with stone, perhaps imports less bread and exports more oats and potatoes than Nova Scotia, in proportion to its size and population; but Newfoundland receives her chief supplies of fresh meat, poultry, vegetables, and the coarser grains from this province, while New Brunswick, unable to compete in her own markets with the Nova Scotia farmer, until very lately sought to protect her agriculturalists by a high and almost prohibitory intercolonial tariff. Nova Scotia does not yet, however, supply her own people with bread, even in

NOVA SCOTIA.

good seasons; some counties, such as Pictou, where oats are extensively consumed, raise a surplus, and some others nearly furnish bread enough for their inhabitants. Yet into the southern counties, the chief seats of commerce and the fisheries, the importations of superfine flour from the United States are still very considerable. In return quantities of potatoes are shipped from the western counties to the northern and eastern States almost every year. Wheat, potatoes, and oats are the most important crops; but buckwheat, rye, barley, Indian corn, and field peas are extensively cultivated, and in seasons when the wheat and potatoes fail are of great value. It is scarcely necessary to observe that the husbandman in Nova Scotia is free from the burden of tithe and land-tax. The horticulture in the neighbourhood of the towns and villages is respectable, its importance is becoming more obvious every year; but neat gardens are not, particularly in the eastern counties, such common features of the rural districts as might be desired. The apple orchards of the western counties are very productive, and extend along the roadside, through the township of Granville, in an unbroken line for 30 miles. Apples and cider are annually exported, and the domestic supply is cheap and abundant. Cattle are exported to New Brunswick not only to supply a part of the general consumption of that province, but to form working teams for its lumberers, and Newfoundland receives nearly all its sheep and live stock from Nova Scotia. But our breeds are inferior to what they should be. Though a few animals are occasionally imported by the Legislature or by agricultural societies with a view to their improvement, too little attention is paid by the farmers to the importance of crossing and selection, and consequently the noble specimens to be met with in the mother country are very rarely seen.

Commercial.

14. Nature has designed Nova Scotia for a commercial country. Everywhere surrounded by water (except on that narrow isthmus which connects her with New Brunswick) with the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of St. Lawrence in her rear and the Atlantic in her front; her people, to whom the sea is a familiar object from childhood, take to its bosom cheerfully. The farmers' sons in the midland counties, where ship building is also carried on, become shipwrights, mariners, or masters of coasters and plaistermen, just as the prospects of advantage are presented, or accident may give a bias to the mind. Further east the coal trade, the supply of West India produce to Canada or of agricultural productions to Newfoundland, offer to the enterprizing their peculiar attractions. The west has its grindstones, cordwood, and other articles, to convey to the United States; and on the southern seaboard the coast and deep sea fisheries people the rugged caves and inlets which indent it with a hardy race to whom farming and gardening are but the amusements of an idle hour, whose homes and whose occupations are on the sea. An active coasting trade springs naturally in a country so situated, it becomes intercolonial almost as soon as it is generated, as in some cases only a narrow strait or arm of the sea divides one colony from another, while the supply of the British West Indies very early attracted towards those islands from Nova Scotia an extensive trade in fish and lumber.

15. Prior to 1824 the foreign trade of Nova Scotia was very limited, but the changes in the commercial policy of the Empire, suggested and carried through by Mr. Huskisson, opened a wider field for colonial enterprize, of which the North Americans were not slow to avail themselves. With every relaxation yielded by the Imperial Parliament the foreign commerce of the colonies has attained a further development, and Nova Scotia vessels, besides their traffic with the neighbouring States, Canada and the West Indies, now trade to the Baltic, the Mediterranean, China, the Mauritius, the East Indies, the Brazils, the Havana, and our merchants and mariners are fast acquiring an accurate acquaintance with distant seas and with foreign markets in every part of the world.

16. Carrying out the policy suggested in your Lordship's Despatch of 31st December, 1846, and co-operating under the auspices of Lord Elgin, the Colonial Legislatures have adopted measures for establishing among the northern group a free intercolonial trade, only modified by considerations which touch sources of revenue already pledged for indispensable fiscal obligations.

17. One further change is now anxiously desired and as confidently anticipated. It is the realization of that policy, suggested in the correspondence between Lord Palmerston and Mr. Bancroft, for an unrestrained reciprocal commerce between Great Britain and the United States, and the repeal of the

Navigation Laws. Such measures would give a stimulus to the trade of all those colonies; and their population would gladly welcome American vessels into their rivers and bays, provided the whole continent south to Mexico were open to their tonnage; and if their fish, timber, deals, coal, and agricultural productions were admitted on equally favourable terms into the ports of the United States. Negociations have been suggested, I believe, between the Governments of Canada and Washington on the basis of the Bill recently introduced to Congress by Mr. Grinnell, and Nova Scotia would cheerfully avail herself of any advantages which Canada may thus secure.

I subjoin a table, showing the tonnage of the province and its exports and imports for 1847:—

IMPORTS.

From.	Estimated Value in Sterling.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
	£.			
Great Britain	330,915	217	63,366	
British Colonies, viz:—				
West Indies . . .	28,850			
North America . . .	187,590	1,975	135,019	24,586
Elsewhere	4,110			
United States	309,383	1,901	167,138	
Foreign States . . .	171,106	264	25,387	
	1,031,954	4,357	390,910	24,586

EXPORTS.

To.	Estimated Value in Sterling.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
	£.			
Great Britain	71,804	275	67,049	
British Colonies, viz:—				
West Indies . . .	202,415			
North America . . .	237,004	2,032	149,524	26,133
Elsewhere	6,587			
United States	474,950	2,075	192,085	
Foreign States	38,309	85	6,805	
	1,031,069	4,467	415,463	26,133

Currency.

18. The currency of Nova Scotia, composed chiefly of province and Bank paper, is strictly guarded by law, which provides for its prompt conversion into the precious metals; the Government reserves to itself the circulation of notes under 5*l.*, and has 47,974*l.* of paper afloat, chiefly one pound notes, receivable for duties at all the revenue offices, and convertible into specie on presentation at the Treasury. There are three banks, whose combined issue is about 140,000*l.* sterling. Old Halifax currency, represented by the Spanish dollar, has given place to a circulation, of which British coins are the base: 16*s.* represent the pound currency; 80*l.* sterling are equal to 100*l.* currency. The addition of one-fourth easily converts sterling into currency. The failure of a bank has never occurred in Nova Scotia; and the public are effectually protected by the present state of the law. The public debt of Nova Scotia is 97,774*l.*

Rate of interest.

19. The legal rate of interest is six per cent. The banks charge this rate upon paper discounted, and allow three per cent. to those who deposit with them. Provincial loans are taken at five per cent, and four per cent. is allowed on sums paid into the savings' bank, an institution conducted under a provincial guarantee.

Fisheries.

20. The fisheries have been already incidentally referred to. A few observations will more clearly explain their nature and extent. Nearly all the small lakes and streams abound with trout. Gasperaux or alewives go up the larger streams in great quantities every spring, and are caught in dip nets in favourable situations. Salmon are found in most of the rivers, which they ascend to deposit their spawn. The salmon fisheries of this province, at its first settlement, were very productive, as may be judged by the fact that 1000 barrels were drawn from Liverpool river in one season. An Act has passed the Legislature authorizing the sessions in each county to make regulations for the protection of this fishery; and on the report of the sessions a general code of regulations will be

Salmon.

NOVA SCOTIA.

framed applicable to the whole province. The erection of grist and saw mills upon the streams has, in many instances, destroyed, and in all has greatly limited this fishery. Salmon are caught in quantities upon the coast for the supply of the home or United States market; and many of the rivers still attract the angler, and furnish to the Indians and poorer settlers, by whom salmon are speared, a portion of subsistence. But it is difficult to protect the river fisheries from the number of proprietors of lands along the banks, who can seldom agree in local regulations for their management, and by whom general laws are so easily evaded.

Shad and bass.

21. Around the shores of the Basin of Mines and Bay of Fundy, great quantities of shad and bass are caught in wears, at every flux and reflux of the tide. The Basin of Annapolis has a fishery peculiar to itself, of small herrings caught in wears, and which are smoked and packed in boxes. These are much prized, and find a ready sale in foreign markets.

Cod and haddock.

22. The cod and haddock fisheries are actively prosecuted all along the southern coast; these fish are found in deep water very near the shores, but the principal catch is taken on the banks about 10 miles off, the poorer fishermen rowing or sailing out in their whaleboats, and returning every night. Small decked vessels are fitted out by those who are able to keep them, and these generally remain on the grounds till they have completed their lading. The Nova Scotians also participate in the Gulf and Labrador fisheries, and pay occasional visits to the banks and shores of Newfoundland. The export of cod-fish in 1847 was 313,822 quintals, valued at 125,442*l.* sterling.

Mackarel.

23. In spring the shoals of mackerel, making their way from the south to the north, and returning in the fall, glide along the coasts and headlands of Nova Scotia, and penetrate into the coves and inlets, where immense quantities of them are stopped with seines and hauled on shore; 500 barrels are by no means an uncommon draught, and 1000 are sometimes taken. In the autumn of 1846 mackarel were stopped in such abundance, that it was difficult to procure salt and barrels for their preservation. Mackerel are also taken in nets all around the shores.

Herring.

24. Herrings are caught at times in great quantities. The following return will give your Lordship an idea of the pickled fish trade, which is annually becoming of more importance, and which, were the markets of the United States thrown open to Nova Scotia, is capable of almost indefinite extension.

RETURN showing the EXPORT of PICKLED FISH in 1847.

Alewives	6,793 barrels 31 kits	From Nova Scotia Proper.
Herrings	22,043 barrels 433 half barrels 150 kegs 353 thirds of barrels	
Mackerel	186,406 barrels 5,078 half barrels 295 quarter barrels 3,187 thirds of barrels	
Salmon	388 tierces 5,101 barrels 305 half barrels 413 thirds of barrels 450 kits	
32,919 barrels, valued at £29,486 sterling		From Cape Breton.

Whale.

25. Several attempts have been made to prosecute the whale fishery from the harbours of Nova Scotia, but I regret to add that the success which has attended the efforts of the enterprizing has not yet given a permanent character to this valuable branch of industry. Almost concurrently with the establishment of the fishery in the ports of New England, an attempt was made by some Quakers to purchase water-lots and fit out vessels in the harbour of Halifax. Either disappointed in the sites they required, or attracted by fairer prospects, or perhaps not being permitted by the Navigation Laws to bring their own vessels to Nova Scotia, these men removed to Britain, and for years no attempt was made to share with the New Englanders the advantages of a pursuit which their industry and skill were annually elevating in importance. Since 1832 several voyages have been made, some of them yielding fair returns; but either from the want of capital to secure the average profit of a series of

voyages, from the absence of economy in the outfit, knowledge of the business, or integrity on the part of those entrusted with the management, the operations became languid, intermittent, and latterly have entirely ceased.

Seal.

26. The seal fishery has been frequently attempted, under the encouragement of bounties from the Legislature. A few good voyages have been made occasionally, particularly from the island of Cape Breton; but the success which has hitherto attended the efforts of those who have turned their attention to this fishery has not been sufficiently decisive to attract towards it any large amount of capital or industry.

Mines and minerals.

27. The mines and minerals of Nova Scotia are, though but very slightly explored, known to be of incalculable value. Perhaps a third part of Cape Breton rests upon a coal-field, and coal in abundance is found in many parts of the counties of Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, and Hants. Iron in combination with coal exists in many places; and although but one successful effort has been made to work these mines, and that prosecuted under cover of a monopoly generally complained of, still the Nova Scotians look forward to the time when their country must largely profit from the decided advantages of its very favourable structure. The export of coal from the mines of Pictou and Sydney, originally opened by the local government, and subsequently leased to the General Mining Association, amounts to 106,117 chaldrons.

28. An abortive attempt to work copper has been made, but failed for want of capital, or from an injudicious selection of the field of operation. There is no doubt that copper exists at Cape d'Or and in other localities. The county of Cumberland produces the best grindstones perhaps to be found in the world, and the export of these abroad is becoming annually more extensive. Gypsum is found in abundance, and furnishes, particularly in the county of Hants, an active and profitable trade. But this branch of industry is yet but very partially developed or its value understood. As capital and population increase, as the contemplated relaxation of trade gives a stimulus to manufactures, and the destruction of the forests of the American continent, and the multiplication of steam power on land and sea, enlarge the demand for fuel, the mines of Nova Scotia must come to be extensively worked. They are unsurpassed in richness by any on the continent, and are situated in such proximity to water carriage, that the cost of transportation by land must be comparatively light. No coal has yet been discovered north of the St. Lawrence.

Manufactures.

29. The manufactures of Nova Scotia are, as yet, of an extremely simple and unpretending character. Coarse cloths, or "homespuns," woven by the wives and daughters of the peasantry, are made in all the settlements, and are generally worn by that class; the more affluent dressing in English broadcloth only on the Sabbath. Some of these home fabrics are of handsome patterns. Fulling-mills exist in the older townships, in which this cloth is thickened and dyed. Where these are too distant the dying is a simple household process. Sheep are kept on every farm, and supply the raw material. Coarse flannel for under garments, bed linen, woollen blankets, and carpets are also made. Flax grows luxuriantly; but handspun and woven is not considered profitable, the British article finding its way into the province at prices so low. Power looms are unknown here. Tanning, to the extent of the preservation of all the hides grown in the country, and of those occasionally imported from South America, is also practised. The yards are not extensive, except in the neighbourhood of the capital (in some of which steam power is used), and many farmers tan their own leather in hogsheads sunk by the road-side, or in pits of the simplest construction. Leather is imported occasionally from Canada, and sheepskins and wool are exported to the United States.

30. Wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, and maize, grown in Nova Scotia, are ground within the province. The annual crop gives employment to numerous mills, of which, with one exception, water is the motive power. For 20 years the Legislature has given encouragement, by bounty, to the erection of oat-mills, which are now numerous. The oat crop seldom fails, and oatmeal, particularly in the counties peopled by Scotch emigrants, enters largely into the general consumption, and, during the prevalence of the potato blight, has formed an invaluable resource. Wheat is imported into Halifax and two or three other seaport towns, from the Baltic and the United States, for manufacture; and, while the Legislature levied a duty on imported flour, the few mills at which it was ground found profitable employment. The high price of food during the latter years of scarcity, joined to the growing

NOVA SCOTIA.

belief that bread should not be taxed, has led to the repeal of this duty; and though the mills, having to sustain a competition with the more extensive establishments of the United States, are less profitable, all classes are benefited by the corresponding reduction in the price of the staff of life.

31. Saw-mills are numerous; but the extensive and costly establishments, common to Canada and New Brunswick, do not exist in Nova Scotia, as we have not the pine forests to sustain them; but all the lumber required for the construction of buildings, and of ships and vessels for the supply of our own commerce or for exportation, is sawed within the country. Pine lumber is extensively shipped from the eastern ports to Newfoundland, from the western to the West Indies, forming a deck load for vessels carrying out fish. Plank and deals are also manufactured for exportation to the mother-country, and, of late, sleepers for rail-roads have been in some demand. Occasional cargoes of ton timber are also shipped; but this branch of trade, never very profitable to individuals or advantageous to the country ere the forests had receded before the progress of cultivation, is less so now, and has been almost abandoned.

32. Of iron manufactures for exportation, except stoves, to some of the colonies, and chain cables to the United States, there are none. Forges, however, are found in all the villages and hamlets, and are numerous in the larger towns. These supply iron-work for mills, ship-building, agricultural carriages and implements, and shoes for cattle. Stoves are imported from the Carron works of Canada and the United States, and iron manufactures of all kinds, are largely imported from the mother country. The iron mines of Nova Scotia are not worked for want of capital. An experiment was tried at Moose river some years ago, by a Company, whose skill and knowledge were not equal to their enterprise. The capital was sunk, and the work abandoned.

33. Leather, to the extent of the whole quantity tanned in the country, is manufactured every year. Little is ever exported, while some comes in from England, Canada, and the United States. Boots, shoes, saddlery, and harness, are made up in all the towns and villages, but the supply (of the quantity and at the prices to compete with imported articles) is not equal to the demand, England and the United States largely supplying the market, injuring it may be, for a time, but ultimately stimulating and improving the domestic manufacture.

34. Household furniture, carts, carriages, ploughs, and other agricultural implements, buckets, fish-barrels, and boxes, are made in great quantities, and various manufactories of wood, flourish in Nova Scotia, and yield profitable employment to those who conduct these branches of business.

35. Tobacco, confectionary, printing, and wrapping paper, hats, and some other articles, are manufactured in the neighbourhood of Halifax, where are also several distilleries for the preparation of spirits from molasses. Bonnets of bleached grass, and hats of straw, are made in many of the rural districts. Buildings are of wood almost universally. Some good stone and brick houses are to be seen in Halifax, and the other larger towns, but these form exceptions to the general rule. Stone houses carelessly built are apt to be damp in this climate; a prejudice against them is in consequence generally entertained, which, added to the low price of lumber, gives wood the preference, and may for the next 20 years. But, as wood becomes scarce, more permanent structures will take the place of those annually decaying, or liable to destruction by fire. Stone, for building materials, abounds in Nova Scotia. Granite of the finest quality, on the south coast, is inexhaustible. Freestone is found all along the northern shore, and slate quite equal to that of Wales in the central region.

Arts and Sciences.

36. Nova Scotia, like all new countries, labours under a deficiency of taste for the pleasures of art, simply because she is destitute of the means for their cultivation and enjoyment. A few good pictures, captured during the war, are to be found in Halifax. A few more, inherited from friends who brought them from home in the earlier emigrations, with those owned by the Catholic church, and some hundreds, perhaps, of respectable copies by native artists, comprise all that administer to tastes so bountifully supplied yet so keenly excited by the exhaustless treasures presented by the public and private collections of Europe. As wealth increases, and is more generally diffused, pictures will also increase, and the art by which they are produced become more highly prized. The Art Union has of late done something to create this taste, subscriptions having been sent from this province, and prizes taken by subscribers. The beautiful engravings of the mother country, which, from their cheapness, compared with oil paintings, are better adapted to the limited means of a colo-

nial population, are doing more, as they are to be found in almost every respectable house, in the principal towns and villages.

37. For the acquisition of practical science the means are also limited. A mechanics' institute has been sustained in Halifax since 1831, at which gratuitous lectures on scientific and other subjects are given throughout six months of the year; a limited collection of models and apparatus is attached to this institution. Perhaps 10 other societies, formed with similar objects, exist in the interior towns and villages, and all of these diffuse around them some taste for science; but the practical schools, open to daily observation, which the workshops and manufactures of the mother country supply, of course are wanting.

Government.

38. Having amply discussed, on fitting occasions, the political principles applicable to this colony, and the changes which have taken place in its institutions, I have here only to report, that from the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 31st of March, 1847, the usages of British constitutional government have been strictly followed, and Nova Scotia, when the necessary departments are arranged, will enjoy self-government in all things which involve her own internal affairs, as perfectly as a reflective and practical people can desire.

Representation.

39. The administration of government in Nova Scotia rests upon as popular a basis as is compatible with ownership of the soil. A freehold which yields 40*s.* currency worth of income qualifies a man to vote for a member, or to serve in the House of Assembly. From the abundance and low price of land, this qualification is easily acquired by any industrious person. A new adjustment of the representation has been, of late, frequently proposed, with a view to a fairer distribution of political influence. In the first organization of the country, certain townships were permitted to send members to the Assembly, their inhabitants also retaining the privilege of voting for members for the counties in which they were included. As new counties have been formed in which are no such privileged townships, and as large districts, lying beyond their borders in those which have them, have grown in population, resources, and intelligence, the distinction has become invidious, and will, it is more than probable, be ultimately effaced by the passage of some general measure of equalization.

Municipal institutions.

40. The system of district councils, as established in Canada, has not yet been tried in Nova Scotia. A Bill was prepared under the auspices of my predecessor, but was not formally presented to the legislature; it being deemed more prudent to watch, for a time, the working of the system in the neighbouring province. Halifax is the only incorporatd city in Nova Scotia; but the townships and districts of each county are invested by law with a certain modified municipal character, enabling the rate-payers to meet half-yearly, appoint local officers, and assess themselves for the support of the poor. The period is fast approaching, if it has not already arrived, when the advantages of municipal incorporation may be made more extensively available over the rural districts, organizing and developing their resources, training their population, and relieving the provincial government of much irksome labour and responsibility. To this subject it is more than probable that, at an early period, I shall have to invite your Lordship's special attention.

Revenues.

41. The revenues of Nova Scotia will be found described in detail in the Blue Book. They are chiefly raised by moderate taxes on imports, the greater proportion being produced by an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. The heaviest direct tax is that of statute labour, which every adult is compelled to perform upon the roads, but which may be commuted by a money payment, if that is preferred. This tax is imposed by statute, but being generally worked out in labour, and the benefit immediately felt in improved communications, it falls lightly even on the poor. Roads and bridges are maintained by this contribution, in aid of which the legislature grants an annual sum, which has risen as high as 35,000*l.*, and seldom falls below 25,000*l.* The annual income of the province from all sources was, in 1847, 111,025*l.*; the expenditure during the same year, 122,223*l.*

Judicial establishments.

42. The various courts were described in the report forwarded in 1846. They are—a Court of Error, Court of Chancery, Supreme Court, Court of Vice-Admiralty, Court of Marriage and Divorce, Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, and Courts of Probate. Besides these, the magistracy of the province scattered over every county possess a power of commitment for criminal offences, and for the collection by summary process of debts under 10*l.* The Supreme Court makes the circuit of the province, and holds sittings

NOVA SCOTIA.

twice a-year in each county, in addition to three terms at Halifax. The criminal calendar is generally very light; indeed, it may be safely asserted, that in no part of Her Majesty's dominions is the average amount of crime less, in proportion to the population, than in Nova Scotia. In all these courts natives of the provinces preside, and the bar which practices before them, numbering 140 members, includes the names of but very few not born in Nova Scotia. In all of them the statute and common law of England, if applicable to the state of society (and, if necessary, varied by local statute or judicial decision), is administered. The sages of the English law are perpetually referred to, and the modern decisions in the Common Law, Equity, or Admiralty Courts, quoted, as are also the opinions of eminent jurists in the neighbouring republic.

The Press.

43. The press of Nova Scotia is as free as that of England, claiming and enjoying, in fact, the same privileges, and restrained by the same laws. It displays a creditable degree of activity and ability, and, with the freedom, sometimes exhibits the licentiousness common to the press of the mother country. There are at present 13 newspapers published in the capital, and five in the interior. The circulation of English newspapers has increased an hundred fold since the establishment of the line of steam packets, and all the leading British and Irish periodicals are looked for with as much eagerness, and received with as much certainty, as the London newspapers were in Scotland and Ireland a few years ago. The cheap literature of the mother country is also widely diffused over this province, while the more expensive books find their way to the collections of the wealthy or into the public libraries.

Post-office establishment.

44. The post-office establishment, which at present is under the control of the Post Master General of England, has grown with the growth of the country and the improvement of its highways. Its branches extend into every county, bringing every settlement, however remote, within a moderate distance of its privileges. The rates of postage, at present, are high and unequal, but a uniformly low rate, as your Lordship is aware, will probably prevail over British America in the course of another year.

Steamers.

45. Mail steamers leave Halifax weekly for England, the United States, Bermuda, and Newfoundland; the latter touching at Sydney, Cape Breton. There is also steam intercourse between Halifax and St. Johns, New Brunswick, including the intervening ports along the western shore; and between Windsor, Annapolis, and St. Johns, on that side of the province washed by the Bay of Fundy. A steamboat plies in the Bras d'Or Lake, Cape Breton, and occasionally there is another, connecting Pictou with Prince Edward Island. Lines of stage-coaches run thrice a-week from Halifax to Pictou and Annapolis.

Railroads.

46. But one railroad has yet been laid down in Nova Scotia, and that used for the transportation of coal from the Pictou mines to the loading-ground, is the property of the General Mining Association. Two others have been projected; the great line from Halifax to Quebec, the official survey and report of which have just been completed, and a line from Halifax to Windsor, intended to connect the capital of the province with the rich marsh lands, and thriving towns and villages which lie around the Basin of Mines, and the counties immediately adjoining. A survey of this line is now in progress at the expense of the Legislature, and a proposition will probably be presented for its completion at the approaching session. From its peculiar geographical position, combined with the advantages enjoyed from the great steam-boat line established by the liberality of the British Government, Halifax will probably command the electric telegraphic communication between Europe and the American continent. As your Lordship is aware a Bill passed last session to provide for the construction of a line of electric telegraph from Halifax to the borders of New Brunswick. Other lines are in course of construction through Canada and the state of Maine, and as soon as the capital required to continue them through New Brunswick has been raised, our line will be formed, and thus the chain of communication be complete.

Military.

47. The defence of Nova Scotia is provided for, ordinarily, by the presence of two or three regiments of British troops in its garrisons, and the visits of the squadron in summer. An organized militia, consisting of 26 regiments, including a force of 44,248 men, exclusive of officers, is provided for by statute. These regiments are officered by commissions from the Crown, and when embodied for actual service, are subject to martial law. In peace they

are rarely called out, except for inspection, but as every man in the province has a right to carry a gun, and few grow up within it, unpracticed in the use of fire-arms, they could soon be moulded for purposes of self-defence, into valuable auxiliaries to any troops, which in case of danger the Imperial Government could spare.

Lighthouses.

48. The coasts of Nova Scotia, though not yet so systematically lighted as those of the mother country or even of the New England States, may yet be said to exhibit very creditable evidence of the value set by its people upon such aids to commerce. By a special law a tonnage duty is levied upon all ships and vessels entering the ports of Nova Scotia or departing therefrom (coasters paying a fixed rate per annum), and the produce of this tax, is held sacred to the building and maintenance of light-houses. Nineteen are in full operation, and two others are now in course of erection. Canada, New Brunswick, and Prince Edwards Island, liberally contribute to the support of these lights, in consideration of the additional security which they afford to the trade of these colonies.

Wages.

49. The price of labour varies slightly in Nova Scotia with the price of food. 2*s.* 9*d.*, and 3*s.* 3*d.* sterling per day, is paid generally by Government on the public roads, upon which farmers and farmer's sons, who have other pursuits, are chiefly employed. These rates will almost always command labour in the towns and villages, in which, however, it sometimes falls to 2*s.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* sterling. Farm servants receive 20*l.* currency per annum, and their board; first-rate men in the harvest time will earn 2*l.* 18*s.* sterling per month; captains of merchant vessels receive 8*l.* sterling per month; sailors 3*l.* 4*s.* sterling per month; mechanics are generally in demand, and can in ordinary seasons, earn from 4*s.* to 8*s.* sterling per day.

Prices.

50. The price of food is regulated partly by the state of the crop, and partly by the prices of bread-stuffs, in the neighbouring republic, whence the quantity, over and above her crop, which Nova Scotia requires is drawn. The abundant supply of fish in almost every part of this province very directly influences the price of all other commodities, and the low rates at which it may be purchased in the Halifax market agreeably surprises strangers from Europe. I give below a price current, including a few of the leading articles which enter into general consumption.

		Sterling.
Wheaten Flour	per barrel of 196 lbs.	1*l.* 7*s.*
Wheat	per imperial bushel	4*s.* 10*d.*
Wheaten Bread	per 2 lb. loaf	3*d.*
Horned Cattle for work	each	10*l.* to 12*l.*
Ditto, slaughtered	per 100 lbs.	1*l.* to 1*l.* 4*s.*
Horses	each	12*l.* to 30*l.*
Sheep	do.	10*s.* to 1*l.*
Goats	do.	16*s.* to 1*l.* 12*s.*
Swine, alive	do.	1*l.* to 1*l.* 5*s.*
Milk	per quart	3*d.*
Butter, fresh	per lb.	9*d.* to 10*d.*
Ditto, salt	do.	8*d.* to 9*d.*
Cheese	do.	6*d.* to 10*d.*
Beef	do.	3*d.* to 6*d.*
Mutton	do.	3*d.* to 6*d.*
Pork	do.	3*d.* to 4*d.*
Rice	per 14 lbs.	2*s.* 10*d.*
Coffee	per lb.	7*d.*
Tea	do.	1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.*
Sugar	per 16 lbs.	4*s.*
Salt, fine	per bushel	4*s.*
Ditto, coarse	do.	1*s.* 7*d.*
Wine	per gallon	4*s.* to 10*s.*
Brandy	do.	8*s.*
Beer	per 5 gallons	4*s.* to 6*s.*
Tobacco	per lb.	10*d.*
Hay	per ton	4*l.* 10*s.*
Oats	per bushel	2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
Corn, kiln dried	do.	3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Wood	per cord	12*s.* to 16*s.*
Coal	per chaldron	1*l.* to 1*l.* 5*s.*
Rum	per gallon	3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*
Coffee	per lb.	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Mackarel	per barrel, No. 1	1*l.* to 1*l.* 5*s.*
	No. 2	16*s.* to 17*s.* 6*d.*
	No. 3	10*s.*
Herrings	do.	11*s.*

NOVA SCOTIA.

51. The subject of emigration and colonization, in connexion with the future improvement of the lower provinces in general, and of Nova Scotia in particular, is purposely omitted. It is too extensive and important to be treated incidentally, and may require and perhaps justify a separate report. In bringing this to a close I must crave your Lordship's pardon for its imperfections. My object has been to present, as an accompaniment to the statistics embraced by the Blue Book, such a picture of the province as persons taking an interest in it at home might find serviceable, and that those who know it best would acknowledge to be accurate.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. HARVEY.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 2.

(No. 38.) No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE, C.B., to Earl GREY.

St. John, New Brunswick, April 8, 1848.

(*Received May* 4, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1847.

The ordinary details classed under the respective heads, to which I have fully adverted in former reports, do not call for many observations.

In regard to the provincial finances, on the due administration of which depend so materially the interests of the province, an important change was made in the last year, by the passing of an Act (10 Vict. c. 87) for repealing, under authority of the imperial statute, the Customs' duties heretofore imposed by statute (8 and 9 Vict. c. 93) for the regulation of trade, and paid over to the province, after deducting certain charges for the Customs' establishment. This Act, which was confirmed by Her Majesty in Council, came into operation on the 1st instant, and under authority of an Act passed in the late session,* the provincial establishment has been re-organized for the collection of the entire customs revenue now raised under local Acts, and a limited establishment has been formed by Her Majesty's Government for the purposes of control, and to insure the due observance of imperial statutes which are still in force.

From the schedule of duties (at page 3) it will be seen that the provincial customs revenue was derived in 1847 from duties of import which did not materially differ from the duties levied in the preceding year. In 1846 and 1847, owing to the partial failure of the crops, wheat and other grains, flour and meal, were exempted from duty.

In consequence of the repeal of the imperial duties, a scale of duties has been imposed in the present year, which do not discriminate between the goods imported from different foreign countries, but which are higher than those imposed on goods imported from Great Britain and British colonies.

Having for a long period advocated the liberation of the colonial trade, I hope that the great benefit which the mercantile interests would derive from free and unrestricted commerce will not be impeded by a system of duties at variance with the principle. And I must observe, that such liberation of the provincial trade, facilitating a profitable intercourse with such near and industrious neighbours as the people of the United States, would, as I conceive, tend to strengthen the connexion between Great Britain and her colonies; since the colonists, in acquiring all the advantages which would be open to them from such an intercourse, would be the more strongly confirmed in the sense they have always entertained of the great benefits which they enjoy as British subjects. In the enumeration (page 5) of the articles exempted from the operation of the import duties, will be found various marine stores, steam-engines and machinery for mills, which are numerous throughout the province.

Under the head of revenue and expenditure (page 19), it will be observed that the export lumber duty produced, in 1847, 15,897*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, but from the check to the timber trade it may be expected to decline in the present year. The impe-

* Transmitted with my Despatch, No. 33, of the 6th instant.

rial duties now repealed amounted to 28,721*l.* 14*s.* The revenue amounted in all to 112,793*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure, including the arrears of the provincial debt, for which special provision has been made, was 185,911*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, leaving an arrear of expenditure carried over to the current year of 73,117*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, of which 63,033*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* was the arrear in 1846. So far as the accounts of the present year have been made up, the appropriations appear to have been large and the arrears augmented; the grants for roads do not exceed those of the last year, but 14,511*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* has been disbursed for relief and support of emigrants, for the repayment of which the emigrant tax is inadequate.

Under the head of expenditure in 1847, will be found the usual appropriations for great and bye roads, the latter distributed in a multitude of small grants, open to the objections which I have frequently taken occasion to point out; and having recommended an amendment of the system in the present year to the Assembly, to whom I communicated your Lordship's observations on the system, I have the satisfaction of being able to state, that although the same plan of detailed appropriation has been adhered to without the previous inspection and survey of the roads, an important alteration has been made in the Road Act, by which all persons who may hereafter be appointed by the Government to expend road money, as Supervisors, Commissioners, &c., are required to give bonds for the faithful application of all monies entrusted to them. And in addition to the usual account and vouchers which, under the regulations adopted in 1841, are rendered to the Auditor-General, each Commissioner is required to file with the clerk of the peace of the county in which the roads are situated, a duplicate of his accounts, which are to be open to public inspection without any fee. I have before had occasion to notice that the statute labour is applied to the roads under authority of county Commissioners. In the year in which public appropriations were withheld, it was rendered more effective. By increasing, therefore, the vigilance of the inhabitants of counties in the improvement of their roads, and enabling them to expose the abuses which have prevailed, some further check will be applied to those abuses.

It was my wish to have provided, by law, for the grants being made to parishes, in order that the appointment of numerous Commissioners might be obviated, but this has not been done, as the arrangement may be made by the Executive; and I enclose* a minute which I have recorded in Council on the subject, which will lead, as I hope, to the adoption of this improvement, and that a system of local rating in commutation of statute labour may be the foundation of an improved system.

The practice of advancing funds on account of tolls and rates for the construction of roads has not yet been introduced, from the opposition made by the people to local taxation; but many expensive bridges have been made at the public charge, on which tolls might profitably be established.

The grant of so large a proportion of the public revenue for the opening of roads and construction of bridges (see note on margin) has originated in the nature of the country, clothed as it is with dense forests, and intersected in every part by numerous rivers and streams, rendering it impossible to promote the settlement of the lands until they are thus laid open to the settler. It is important, therefore, on this account, as well as from higher considerations, to check the local jobbing which the system has had a tendency to introduce, and which the influence of the Government has been applied to counteract. I consider that the management of the roads, where public appropriations are applied to them, ought to be intrusted to the superintendence of the Surveyor-General's department.

In 1846, 29,003*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*
In 1847, 34,525*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

It will be observed that 10,221*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* was appropriated in 1847 for a lunatic asylum, and a spacious building has been erected for this purpose in the neighbourhood of this city, a monument of the humane liberality of the provincial Legislature.

As the revenue from the sale of forest timber is collected, for the most part, as an export duty, which yielded in the last year 15,897*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* (page 20), the territorial revenue, deducting this amount, did not exceed 10,365*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* (page 36); and if settlers were allowed to liquidate the charges for land purchases by labour upon the roads, taking certificates from road Commissioners of the sums due for effective contracts performed by them, the revenue would be improved, and the settlement of the country greatly accelerated.

The most important enactments of the Legislature in the year 1847 (page 56), were the Acts passed to facilitate the construction of certain railways, and for the improvement of the parish schools, by providing for their inspection, and for the

* Enclosure referred to, not received.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

training of teachers, a system which has been introduced under favourable circumstances in the present year.

Of the Council and Assemblies, an important alteration has been made by the introduction, in part, of the system introduced in Canada on the union of these provinces. The Executive Councillors have for some time held their offices subject to a virtual tenure of responsibility to the Assembly; but a more important change has been effected in the present year by the recognition in the Assembly of the principle of associating the heads of civil departments in the Council, subject to the resignation of their seats on the retirement of the Council.

It is to be regretted that the system is unaccompanied by Executive control over the provincial finances, and the complete separation of administrative from legislative functions in the Assembly, an object of great importance to effect, as well as the recognition of a system of local municipal government, which has hitherto been restricted to the city of St. John. In the present year, an Act has been passed to provide for the incorporation of the city of Fredericton, and which I hope will lead to the extension of this constitutional principle to other parts of the province.

A great improvement was effected in the last year in the emigration department by the appointment by Her Majesty's Government of an emigration officer at St. John. The sufferings and mortality of the emigrants during the summer season, which imposed on the province a heavy debt, has led, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, to some important changes in the system, in the passing of an Act to provide for the due regulation of ships arriving with emigrants; and another Act has been passed for the care of the orphan children of deceased emigrants, and the preservation of the money and effects left by their parents.

Provision has been made for a census to be taken of the population in 1849, which may be generally estimated at more than 200,000. By the returns of 1840 (page 134) the numbers were 156,062.

By the ecclesiastical returns (page 137) it will be seen that the population is classed under various denominations of Christians, who, for the most part, support their churches by voluntary contributions.

The monetary system of the province (page 149) is still unreformed; and unless a general measure should be adopted by Her Majesty's Government, with the authority of Parliament, any partial revision of the present defective currency would be unsatisfactory, and indeed impracticable.

The advantages which have attended such a revision in the United States afford an example of the benefits which the colonies would derive from an assimilation of the currencies of the colonies with that of the United Kingdom. The limited accommodation afforded by the provincial banks tends to retard the progress of the country.

Of the trade of the province it will be seen (page 157) that the total value of the imports in 1847 was 1,125,388*l.*, and of exports 696,399*l.*, the reduction of which may be ascribed to the check given to the timber trade, and to the sale of new ships in England during the last year. The number of ships entering the ports in 1847 were 3123 of 427,880 tons, and navigated by 19,870 men; and the number which cleared outwards were 3102, containing 478,171 tons, and navigated by 21,277 men.

The shipping are, for the most part, navigated by British seamen. The attention given of late years to the lumber and shipping trade has led to the decline of the fisheries, which might, if duly encouraged, have become a nursery for seamen and the source of an extensive and lucrative commerce.

The agricultural return (page 178) has been made up in more detail than in former years; and it will be seen that certain counties have been found more favourable for the production of wheat than others. The potato crop has heretofore been greatly relied on, and potatoes have, in plentiful years, been largely exported to the United States, and are ordinarily used in the feeding of stock. The failure of this crop in the last two years has encouraged the raising of grain, for which the soils are well adapted. Oats are a certain and productive crop, and are largely cultivated. The spring wheats have been usually cultivated, but the introduction of the winter wheats would be attended with advantage where the summers are short, and they have been found to succeed in some situations. The feeding of stock is attended with expense in a climate subject to winters of such long duration.

Before concluding this report it may be proper for me to offer some remarks upon the state of crime and the means of correction and prevention (page 189). In the last year some disturbances occurred in different parts of the province, arising from party divisions and disputes, but which were fortunately arrested by

the vigilance of the magistrates, and the firm and impartial spirit in which the laws have been administered by the Courts.

The establishment of a police force in St. John and Portland has been attended with great benefit.

The provincial Penitentiary has been frequently improved, although it is still defective in the means of carrying out an efficient system of secondary punishment. This object will demand the attention of the Government and the Legislature; for, although crimes of magnitude are comparatively rare, some atrocious ones have recently occurred, which, from the exposed situation of the people in the rural districts, have a tendency to create alarm. The county gaols are generally defective in construction, and are without the means of providing even for the employment of vagrants.

The desire generally entertained for the progressive amelioration of the criminal law renders it also necessary that the system of secondary punishments should be efficient, and that the means should be provided for its due enforcement with a view to the prevention of crime and the reformation of offenders.

At the close of an administration of seven years it is due to this province to bear my testimony to the value of it, as one of the most important possessions of the Crown. The spirit with which its hardy and persevering inhabitants have, in 60 years, triumphed over the difficulties opposed to them in the settlement of such a country, and accumulated so large an amount of agricultural, maritime, and commercial wealth, is an earnest of the success which will attend their future labours, aided by the co-operation of British enterprise and capital. In the present advanced state of the arts, and the recent triumph of skill and science, which have contributed so largely to unite the families of mankind and to diffuse to the remotest quarters the blessings of civilization and improvement, the progress of this fine province cannot fail to be accelerated, and its connection with the United Kingdom strengthened and cemented, a result which will assuredly be productive of great reciprocal benefits.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.
&c. &c. &c.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

(No. 35.) No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir Donald Campbell, Bart. to Earl Grey.

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
May 8, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received May* 23, 1848.)

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1847.

And as I assumed the Government of this island only a few days before the close of that year, I hope your Lordship will be pleased to dispense with my offering any observation upon the contents of the book.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) DONALD CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Governor,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.
No. 4.

(No. 19.) No. 4.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. Gaspard Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
May 4, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received May* 23, 1848.)

Herewith I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for the year 1847, at the same time accompanied with my report upon the state of the colony throughout that year, as also its present condition and its future prospects.

In laying before your Lordship my remarks and observations on those subjects that appear to me to be of the most material interest to the welfare of this colony, I have thought it most advisable to adhere to the plan adopted in the compilation of these statistical returns—the division of the several subjects into separate sections.

Population.—Section 1.

As no tables are at present kept in the colony exhibiting the births, marriages, and deaths in each year, it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of the inhabitants of this island, and therefore no accurate returns can be prepared showing the relative numbers employed in the fisheries, trades, and other occupations of the people.

The last census was taken in the year 1845, and the returns herewith sent are merely a transcript of those for that year.

At the meeting of the provincial Legislature, I hope to be able to remedy, at least to some extent, this defect in the returns by the introduction of a law requiring exact returns of births, marriages, and deaths to be kept in each district, and periodically transmitted to the office of the Colonial Secretary.

These returns, however, will only embrace that portion of the island lying within what is termed the electoral divisions, as there is no resident holding a civil or other appointment under the Crown on the whole of the western, northern, and a portion of the eastern coasts, commonly denominated the French shore, nor likewise on that portion of the Labrador coast within the limits of the government of Newfoundland. The number of British subjects resident in these parts has been estimated at about 4000, but I have been led to believe that that number has, within the last few years, very considerably increased.

According to the census of 1845, the returns of the population amounted to 96,295; and the accompanying tables, compiled from the returns furnished in that year, will, at one view, exhibit an abstract of the entire population of the several districts, divided according to their sexes, ages, religious denominations, as well as their occupations, &c.

Town of St. John's.

During the past year, great exertions have been made by the inhabitants of the town of St. John's to repair their losses, occasioned by the fire of the 9th June of the preceding year. New lines of streets have been laid out on an improved plan, both as to width and regularity, and intersected at suitable distances with cross streets or fire-breaks. In several quarters of the town, new buildings have been commenced, and the works carried on with great spirit and energy.

In the lower street, Water-street, on the side commanding the frontage of the harbour, many handsome shops and substantial warehouses of stone and brick have been erected at very considerable expense by the merchants, and this part of the town wears an improved appearance. Very many of these have been erected at a cost varying from 4000*l.* to 8000*l.*, and the ground rental of the premises lining this frontage averages 3*l.* a square foot.

The Act, however, rendering it compulsory that all buildings in this street,

as well as the south side of the street lying immediately above it in a parallel line, called Duckworth-street, should be either of brick or stone, does not come into operation till the next year; and it is much to be feared that, at the meeting of the local Legislature, many and strenuous attempts will be made, and those successfully, for a further postponement of this most desirable measure; for, until this has been effected, in consequence of the contiguity of so many wooden buildings, serving only temporary purposes, the danger of a fire again spreading its ravages throughout the city, though to a certain degree lessened, will not be removed.

The public buildings now in the course of erection are the Custom-house, which will be completed in the spring, the colonial building, to be appropriated for the meetings of the local Legislature, and the Protestant cathedral, towards which half the amount raised under the authority of the Queen's letter for the relief of the sufferers by the fire has been appropriated. A site has been fixed on for a market-house, and a sum of money voted for its erection, but, owing to the embarrassed condition of the finances of the colony, as yet no progress has been made with the work.

In the past year I have, out of the funds at the disposal of the Government, formed two large tanks in the centre of the town, affording at all times a copious supply of pure and excellent water, and likewise, being frost proof, of the greatest utility in the event of accidents by fire occurring in their neighbourhood.

At one of the chief outlets of the town, commanding the frontage of the river, and forming the upper part of the harbour, a public walk, affording a place of recreation to all classes, as well as contributing to the health of the inhabitants, has been commenced, and in the course of the ensuing season will be completed.

The crowded state of the burial-grounds in this town has likewise occupied my most serious attention; and for the purpose of abating, if not entirely removing, this evil, so loudly complained of by the inhabitants generally, I have purchased a piece of ground without the town of nine acres in extent, and intend dividing and appropriating it as a cemetery for parties of all religious denominations, in proportion to the number composing the several creeds, and shall use my best endeavours for the closing of those within the town.

Two Companies, the one for supplying the town with gas, the other for the supply of water, have been incorporated by Acts of the local Legislature, the former in the year 1844, whose works are completed and in full operation; the latter in the year 1846, whose pipes are now being laid down, and it is presumed the town will have the benefit of the undertaking in the course of the spring.

As no assessments are in force for any local or fiscal purposes, it is impossible to form any accurate estimate of the value of either household or other property in this town; the rental, however, of Water and Duckworth streets has been by competent judges computed at between 35,000*l.* and 40,000*l.* a-year.

The accompanying return, marked No. 2, will more accurately show the classification of the population of this town, the number of their houses, warehouses, &c., as well as the foreign vessels trading at this port, and the extent to which the fisheries are prosecuted by the capital of the island.

The sanitary condition of the colony during the past year has been influenced to a considerable extent by a malignant species of typhus fever, which has arisen from the importation of vast bodies of emigrants from different parts of Ireland. The fever thus introduced upon the arrival of these emigrants appeared in the first instance to be of a mild form, but it soon assumed a graver character.

Precautionary measures were immediately adopted by the Government to prevent, as far as possible, this infectious disorder spreading amongst the densely crowded population of this town. Boards of health were established, and health-wardens appointed for the several districts. Similar measures were also adopted in other of the larger settlements. In addition to the Hospital of St. John's, another building was taken and converted into a fever hospital for the sole reception of this class of patients.

In the three months, June, July, and August, the number of persons admitted into the Auxiliary Fever Hospital of St. John's was 126, of whom 23 died. The expense of this establishment and medical attendants amounted to 841*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The sanitary regulations of the Government were, I am happy to say, eminently successful, for the disorder was, but with few exceptions, confined to these unfortunate emigrants; and at the same time they allayed the apprehensions of the people, who were thrown into a great state of alarm at the breaking out of this pestilential malady.

The climate of Newfoundland has been very generally misrepresented, for it is a remarkable as also a well-ascertained fact that scarcely a more healthy climate is anywhere to be found, and there is no country where the inhabitants enjoy better health, or where, notwithstanding the fatigue and hardships to which a fisherman's life is subjected, more of them attain to longevity.

Ecclesiastical.

This colony, previous to the year 1839, formed a part of the diocese of Nova Scotia; in that year it was, with the Bermudas, erected into a separate see, and the Right Rev. A. G. Spencer, D.D., appointed the first lord bishop, who, on being translated in 1844 to Jamaica, was succeeded by the Right Rev. Edward Field, D.D.

There are neither parishes nor rectors, properly so called; the Protestant episcopal clergymen are all missionaries, appointed and paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The bishop alone derives any portion of his income from the State, a salary of 500*l.*, drawn from the North American clergy estimate, being annually paid to him.

The establishment consists of 32 clergymen, and there are 64 churches in the island.

In the year 1846 the following resolution of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was, through their secretary, notified to the bishop, and by him to his clerical brethren and members of his congregation :—" After 1st July, " 1849, the bishop's salary from the Society to be reduced to 250*l.*, and that of " every missionary then on the list to a sum not exceeding 100*l.* Such sums " to be continued on the condition of what is reduced by the Society being " made up by the people. What is saved by the Society to be expended on " the maintenance of additional clergy."

In consequence of that resolution a plan has been agreed upon for making a systematic yearly collection throughout the island for the support of the church. The manner in which the bishop and the Church Society propose to carry this plan into execution will be seen from the address which they presented to me on my arrival to assume the government of the colony, a copy of which, together with my reply, is subjoined.

And I am rejoiced to find that they have not been disappointed in the results which they anticipated at the time of the adoption of the measure; for in the Report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for the year 1847 it is stated, " That never certainly could any scheme have been proposed at a less " favourable moment, for during the first year of its trial the people, who were " called upon to make this voluntary assessment, have been subjected to a series " of providential losses and calamities in the failure of the fishery, the destruc- " tion by fire of a great part of the capital, and the hurricanes which have " devastated their coasts. Notwithstanding, however, these severe discourage- " ments, the scheme itself, based as it is on a sound and just principle, bids fair " to realize the expectations of those who formed it."

The following address from the Newfoundland Church Society was presented to me on the 5th May, 1847, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the diocese, attended by the resident clergy, &c. :—

" May it please your Excellency,—We, the President, Officers, and Com- " mittee of the Newfoundland Church Society avail ourselves of the interview " with which your Excellency has honoured us to tender our heartfelt con- " gratulations to your Excellency and Lady Le Marchant on having reached " our shores in safety, and respectfully to request your Excellency to take our " Society under your immediate patronage.

" Your Excellency, we presume, is aware that the clergy of the Church of " England in this colony have for more than a century been almost dependent " on the charity of our Christian brethren and dear mother church at home, " through the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign " Parts. The increased and increasing demands on that Society, coupled with

" the reasonable expectation that, as our infant church has been so long nursed " and matured, we should now be able and willing to provide for them of our " own household and faith, and especially 'for them who labour in the word " and doctrine,' has led to the resolution to reduce by one-half the bishop's and " every missionary's stipend. The sum hereby saved will not, however, be " immediately withdrawn from the colony, but granted to fresh settlements, " unoccupied as yet by our holy church with her blessings and means of grace.

" This resolution has been formally announced by the secretary of that " Society, and made known by the bishop of the diocese to the clergy and " laity of our communion. It is the desire and object of the Newfoundland " Church Society to take up the burthen, if it is proper so to speak of a great " Christian duty and privilege; and the plan by which we propose to bear it " is by calling on every member of our communion to contribute according to " his ability to the support of the church and clergy, the rich bountifully, the " poor cheerfully, as God may bless and enable them, so that an average sub- " scription of one penny a-week, or one dollar a-year, may be received from " each member of the Church of England in Newfoundland.

" This plan was cordially approved by your Excellency's predecessor, Sir " John Harvey, and by him strongly and eloquently recommended at the last " anniversary of the Church Society during his administration of this Govern- " ment. And it is a source of great gratification to us that we can assure your " Excellency that, so far as it has been tried, it has succeeded in a time of " unusual pressure upon the resources of the country to a degree which allows " us to hope and believe, when the necessity of such a demand is more gene- " rally understood, and there is greater power to answer it, may, under your " Excellency's patronage, and with God's more needful blessing for his dear " Son's sake, fulfil the desires and expectations of the friends of scriptural " truth and apostolic order here and at home.

" EDWARD NEWFOUNDLAND."

Reply.

" MY LORD, REVEREND GENTLEMEN, and GENTLEMEN,

" I ACCEPT with much pleasure the address presented to me this day " by the Newfoundland Church Society, and on behalf of Lady Le Marchant " and my family, I return you their best thanks for your kind congratulations " on our arrival on these shores.

" The great exertions which have of late years been made by the Church " and Government at home both for establishing bishoprics, and providing a " more numerous body of clergymen, zealous and ardent in the discharge of " their sacred duties should, I am sure you will all agree, be met by corres- " ponding efforts on the part of those to whom they are sent, and I trust that " in all Societies, similar to the one whose address I have now the honour of " receiving, the same plan will be instituted, and may their labours be crowned " with the like success, that is now attending the Newfoundland Church " Society.

" My Lord, Reverend Gentlemen, and Gentlemen, in accepting the office of " Patron of your Society I do assure you that at all times in the course of my " administration of the affairs of this colony, you will find me both a willing " advocate and a staunch supporter of your interests, and I earnestly hope that " as the season of trial and adversity passes away from the island, all the " members of her church will joyfully and willingly contribute to the utmost " extent of their means to the support of this Society, on whose prosperity the " eternal and temporal welfare of so large a portion of her population depends.

" J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT."

Of the reformed religion the class the most numerous, as by far the wealthiest, is that of the Church of England; they number 34,281 persons.

Next to them in point of number are the Wesleyans, of whom there are 14,239 persons; their establishment consists of 13 ministers and they have 34 places of worship.

The Presbyterians of the Church of Scotland number 576 persons, and they have one minister resident in St. John's and one place of worship.

There is likewise a Congregational Church at St. John's and one resident minister, this section number 394 persons.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Roman Catholic population number 46,785 persons, they have 42 churches, and a cathedral at St. John's not yet consecrated. Their establishment consists of a bishop and 24 clergymen. To the bishop formerly a salary of 75*l.* a-year, drawn from the North American Clergy Estimate was assigned, that, however, by a vote of the House of Commons in the past year was raised to 300*l.* The Right Rev. Bishop Fleming is the present Roman Catholic bishop.

Educational.

Under an Act of the local Legislature for the encouragement of education in the colony, elementary schools have been established in every district in the island.

By the provisions of this Act of the Legislature power is given to the Governor to constitute in each district two separate and distinct Boards of Education, Roman Catholic and Protestant; by nominating seven respectable inhabitants of each creed to each section. One resident clergyman of each persuasion being *ex officio* a member of his respective Board, and to their care the regulation and supervision of these schools is entrusted.

The scheme for the government of these schools has been found to be both efficient and satisfactory. The amount expended in furtherance of this object for the year 1847, was 6067*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

In the present state of the great mass of the population of the colony, consisting, as it does, of simple and hardy fishermen, the subjects of instruction must necessarily be of a simple and elementary nature. For to benefit this class the colonial grant is given, a separate provision having been likewise made for those, whose children require a higher education, it being the intention of the Legislature to provide for the education of the sons and daughters of fishermen; of children that are to live the same simple, laborious, and honourable life as their parents are now doing. For it should not be lost sight of that the instruction must always have reference to the station in life which the child is hereafter to fill, the two-fold scope and object of all education being first to impart to the child that practical knowledge of his duty to God and man, and of the grand purpose of his existence here, which may, through his mercy, ensure his present and eternal happiness, and secondly, to convey that secular instruction which may best enable him to perform the part assigned to him among his fellow men for their mutual good. The present benevolent extension of education may, with the blessing of Divine providence, afford these unappreciable benefits to thousands, who could not otherwise have attained them.

In addition to these government schools the Newfoundland and British North American School Society have established schools in several districts. No accounts of the funds or expenses of these schools are kept in this country; the contributions and subscriptions are for the most part made in England, the management of the affairs of the schools is entirely conducted in England. The salaries of the masters, mistresses, and teachers, are paid out of the funds of the Society, towards which the sum of 500*l.* is annually paid by the Colonial Government under a local Act. These schools are conducted in a manner highly creditable to the Society at home, as well as to those who have the superintendence and management of them here.

The local Government also appropriate the sum of 250*l.* towards the support of the schools in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodists, and the Wesleyan Society contribute 100*l.* a-year in furtherance of the same object.

In St. John's there is an academy under the control of Directors appointed under a Local Act; and the salaries of the two masters are defrayed out of the Colonial Revenue, that of the senior being 300*l.* a-year, and the junior 250*l.*

The Legislature have established and support two grammar schools, one at the town of Harbor Grace, and the other at Carbonear. One master with a salary of 150*l.* is assigned to each school. At Placentia there is a commercial school, the master's salary of 40*l.* a-year is likewise defrayed by the Government.

In the town of St. John's there is an orphan asylum, towards the support of which the Government contribute 150*l.*, and the remainder is defrayed by private subscriptions.

The Presentation Convent School is conducted by five ladies of the nuns of that order without any remuneration, the superior superintending under the Roman Catholic bishop for the time being; this school has, it is said, been supported by Dr. Fleming, the present bishop, with the exception of an annual vote of 200*l.* by the Colonial Legislature from the funds of the colony.

Except at St. John's, and excepting also the schools established by the Newfoundland School Society, and by the Colonial Government, there are scarcely any private schools.

The subjoined return is taken from the census of 1845.

Schools.	Conducted by Masters.		Conducted by Mistresses.	
	Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.	Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.
209	5468	3574	358	866

Judicature and Police.

The Supreme Court is constituted under the imperial statute, 5 Geo. IV., c. 67, and the Royal Charter issued in pursuance of the statute. It is composed of a chief justice at a salary of 1200*l.* sterling, and two assistant judges, each at a salary of 700*l.* sterling, secured by Act of the Legislature. The Court has jurisdiction throughout the whole government of Newfoundland and its dependencies, and on the seas and banks to which vessels resort for carrying on the fishery, and has all criminal and civil jurisdiction, as fully and amply to all intents and purposes, as the Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, and High Court of Chancery in England, and is also a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery. The Court sits only at St. John's, the capital of the island, at such times as the Governor by his proclamation may appoint. The terms rarely exceed two, one in spring and one in autumn, for a period of about three or four weeks each. All civil actions in which the matter in dispute exceeds forty shillings are tried by jury. The practice on the common law side is in general the same as that of the Court of Queen's Bench, modified by rules adapted to the circumstances of the colony. The practice on the equity side is governed by a code of rules, subject to which modification, the practice of the English Court of Chancery prevails. In prosecutions for breaches of the laws relating to trade and revenue, the Supreme Court proceeds according to the rules and practice of the Courts of Vice Admiralty. This Court alone, is also invested with the power of granting probates of wills and letters of administration, and with the control of the persons and property of infants and lunatics. An appeal lies from the Supreme Court to the Queen in Council, where the matter in dispute exceeds 500*l.* The officers of the Court are the chief clerk and registrar, at a salary, in lieu of fees, of 350*l.* sterling, (lately reduced from 500*l.*) who is also by virtue of his office, Registrar of Deeds for the central district, appointed by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual. A crier at a salary of 60*l.* sterling appointed by the chief justice for the time being, both salaries voted annually by the Assembly.

Circuit Courts.—The island is divided into three judicial districts, the central, northern, and southern, within which, respectively, there is a superior Court of Record, styled the Circuit Court, held by the chief or one of the assistant judges of the Supreme Court. This Court has the same jurisdiction, powers, and authority within the district as the Supreme Court throughout the whole island, save in cases of treason, and capital felonies, and in prosecutions for breach of the revenue laws.

The Circuit Court for the central district (or district of St. John's) sits at the town of St. John's only. Its terms generally precede those of the Supreme Court in spring and autumn, and last for periods of about four weeks, and its practice is the same as that of the Supreme Court.

The Circuit Court for the northern circuit sits twice in the year at Harbor Grace for periods of about four weeks in spring and autumn; and once a year during the months of September and October at the following places, viz. :— Twillingate, Fogo, Greenspond, Bonavista, and Trinity, for periods of a week or 10 days at the respective places.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Circuit Court for the southern district sits once in the year onlyat the following places, during the months of September and October, viz., Harbor Briton, Burin, Placentia, St. Mary's, and Ferryland.

The terms and places of holding the Circuit Courts are annually fixed by the Governor's proclamaiion. The practice of the northern and southern Circuit Courts is governed by a code of rules adapted to the state and circumstances of the outports. An appeal lies from the Circuit Courts to the Supreme Court in matters exceeding 50*l.* sterling. Each of these Courts has a clerk, (who is also the Registrar of Deeds within the district,) appointed by warrant and under the Royal Sign Manual at a salary of 200*l.*, and fees amounting in the northern district to 150*l.* or 180*l.*, and in the southern district to less than 50*l.*

Courts of General and Quarter Sessions are also held at St. John's and the principal outports, the sittings of which are regulated by the Governor's proclamation. The English Criminal Law being in force in the colony, these Courts and the magistrates have (so far as the law can be applied) jurisdiction and powers similar to those of the quarter sessions and justices of the peace in England. Trials, however, by jury, in criminal cases, with occasional exceptions at St. John's, always take place in the superior Courts. The Courts of Session have also a summary jurisdiction in the recovery of debts for sums not exceeding 40*s.*; in disputes relating to the curing of fish to the amount of 5*l.*, and concerning the wages of seamen and fishermen, hiring of boats, and the supply of bait to an unlimited amount. These Courts are presided over by stipendiary magistrates, of whom there are three at St. John's at salaries of 300*l.* sterling each, two at Harbor Grace at salaries of 180*l.* and 150*l.*, and one at each of the 13 other outports at salaries varying from 100*l.* to 150*l.*; the total cost being 2930*l.* sterling, voted annually by the Assembly.

Sheriffs.—There are three sheriffs, one for each of the judicial districts, at salaries of 750*l.* for the central, 300*l.* for the northern, and 200*l.* for the southern district, secured by an Act of the Legislature. The sheriffs are appointed annually by the Governor.

Clerks of the Peace.—There are 11 clerks of the peace, one at St. John's at a salary of 300*l.*, one at Harbor Grace at a salary of 150*l.*, and one respectively at Brigus, Ferryland, Placentia, Burin, Harbor Briton, Trinity, Bonavista, Carbonear, and Twillingate, at salaries from 35*l.* to 60*l.* without fees. Their salaries, with the exception of that of the clerk of the peace for St. John's, are voted annually by the Assembly. The clerks of the peace are appointed by the Governor.

Constables.—There are, at various places throughout the island, in all, 66 paid constables, at an annual stipend varying from 12*l.* to 45*l.*, with the exception of the high constable at St. John's who has 80*l.*, and at a total cost of 1394*l.* sterling voted annually by the Assembly. These are all the constables of the island, there being none who serve gratuitously.

Gaolers.—There are six gaolers, one at St. John's at a salary of 150*l.*, one at Harbor Grace at 90*l.*, and one respectively at Ferryland, Placentia, Burin, and Trinity, at 25*l.* each, (in lieu of fees,) voted annually by the Assembly. There being no local rates or assessments in the different districts, the whole expense of the administration of justice, support of the poor, and for other public services and works, is defrayed out of the public revenue.

Labrador.—In pursuance of the power conferred upon the Governor by the 18th section of the Judicature Act, (5th Geo. IV., c. 67,) a Court of civil jurisdiction was established for those parts of the Labrador within the limits of this Government, presided over by one judge at a salary of 700*l.* sterling, and having, as officers, a clerk and registrar at a salary of 150*l.*, and a sheriff at a salary of 100*l.* This Court heard and determined in a summary way all suits and complaints of a civil nature arising within the limits of its jurisdiction, and for this purpose, visited all the different harbours on the coast once a year during the months of August, September, and October. An appeal lay from the decisions of this Court to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, in matters at issue above 50*l.*, and in cases affecting the title to lands and tenements, rights of fishery, annual rents, and matters where rights in future might be bound.

This Court was in existence from the year 1826 to 1834, when it was abolished by the local Act 4 Wm. IV., c. 20, which repealed so much of the Judicature Act as provided for its establishment.

Since 1834 the Labrador coast has been entirely without any provision for the local administration of justice, and although a very extensive fishery is annually carried on there by the inhabitants of this island, and there are, moreover, many permanent settlers, there is not even a single resident justice of the peace.

Agriculture.—Section 2.

It may be said that the cultivation of the soil made little or no progress in Newfoundland until after the peace with France in 1814.

The sole occupation of the resident inhabitants was confined to the fishery, an opinion generally prevailed, that the soil and climate raised impassable barriers to agriculture. It was further considered, that the encouragement of settlement and agriculture, even if it were practicable, would be injurious to the interests of the fishery, in consequence every obstruction and impediment was thrown in its way. It was an offence against the laws of the fishery to clear, to inhabit, or to cultivate the waste lands of Newfoundland. Before that period there may have been some few gardens for vegetables and a few spots of land cleared for raising potatoes. Farming, as an occupation, or as a means of employment or subsistence, was unknown.

The first relaxation was made in the olden system regarding the land in 1815 by Governor Sir Richard Keats; he was authorized to make small grants of land limited from two to four acres. Many lots of ground now so valuable in the vicinity of St. John's, were granted during his government. From 1818 to 1824, Governor Sir Charles Hamilton, the first resident Governor, made some larger grants of land and on more favourable terms.

Sir Thomas Cochrane commenced his government in 1825. Immediately on his arrival he entered warmly into the subject of the agricultural improvements of the colony; made liberal grants of land from 500 to 250 acres. During his government, the first main road that was opened in the island, the road from St. John's to Portugal Cove, was projected and completed. Much land was cleared and very considerable progress made in agricultural improvement.

His Excellency Captain Prescott followed in his footsteps, he gave every facility and every encouragement in his power to the general clearance and cultivation of the land. Through his recommendation to Her Majesty's Government, much of the obstructions that remained to the obtaining of land was removed, and it may be said, that during his Government, hundreds of poor industrious persons were located on land which now affords a comfortable support to themselves and families. The large amount of appropriations, during his government, for the formation of roads, greatly facilitated the progress of agriculture; not only the margins of the various roads branching from St. John's, but likewise in Conception Bay, Trinity Bay, Bonavista, Ferryland, Prepassey, St. Mary's, Placentia, Burin, and in all the inhabited districts of the island, no matter where, a road was opened; cultivation and population was certain to follow in its course.

During the administration of his successor Sir John Harvey, large votes were recommended to the Assembly for roads and bridges. These public improvements rapidly progressed, as a matter of course cultivation and settlement followed. The land, particularly in the neighbourhood of St. John's, doubled in value. Agriculture became a recognized and most important branch of industry, a source of employment and subsistence to a large portion of the people.

At present it will be scarcely considered necessary to adduce arguments or proofs as to the capability of the soil of Newfoundland for agricultural purposes, as a general principle it may be safely laid down that in no case where due skill and industry have been employed, have they failed to repay the husbandman's toil. Farms have been successfully cultivated in the districts of St. John's, Trinity, Bonavista, Conception Bay, St. Mary's, Placentia, Burin, Fortune Bay. And in every part of the island, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, have been produced of the best quality.

It may be said without fear of contradiction that in no instance, when industry and skill have been used in clearing and cultivating the soil of Newfoundland, has it failed to make an ample recompence. The most successful cultivator is the man who works himself. The cultivators of small portions of ground were truly the pioneers, who were first in making inroads on the wil-

NEWFOUNDLAND.

derness. The judicious expenditure of capital will also meet a profitable and certain return.

When it is taken into consideration the difficulties and prejudices that the cultivator of the soil had to contend with, the surprise should be, not the slow progress that agriculture has made, but that so much has been accomplished Necessity more than choice drove the inhabitants to the cultivation of the soil. As long as the fisheries made such profitable returns, and enabled the fisherman to support himself and family for the whole year from the fruits of a few months' employment in the fishery, he never would voluntarily turn to the laborious task of clearing the wilderness. The unequal competition of the French and the Americans reduced the profits in the fishery, it scarcely paid its own expenses. The only alternative left to the inhabitants was either to emigrate or to cultivate the soil. Whatever proportion of the fisheries that remain to the British has been preserved by the auxiliary support which the inhabitants were enabled to obtain from the cultivation of the soil.

The cost of grubbing up and cultivating the waste land of this country must necessarily vary much according to the quality and condition of the land itself and its locality.

That in the vicinity of the town of St. John's has more of rocks and stones on the surface than in some other parts of the district, and the cost of grubbing, clearing rocks and stones, burning stumps and roots, ploughing, harrowing and manuring for a crop cannot be safely calculated at less than 13*l.* sterling per acre, out of which may be deducted the net value of a fair crop of oats, potatoes, or turnips, which the land will yield the first year from the manure and burnt ashes. In some other parts of the district land may be doubtless grubbed up and cultivated at much less expense, being comparatively free from stones, and requiring little labour previously to the plough being used. It may be observed that the land in this portion of the island is, generally speaking, of a light gravelly nature, easy to work and cultivate, soon warming with the heat of the summer, and quick in forcing forward the crops when planted. On the other hand it appears to require a liberal supply of manure to put it in condition, and from its porous nature, repeated applications of manure are desirable until the land is laid down to grass, which yields crops of hay, both of great abundance, as also of excellent quality. When again ploughed, it is generally much improved in texture and quality, and will carry grain crops well, especially if a small supply of lime be harrowed into the surface, for this latter article is at present too dear to admit of the free use of it as in England. At no distant period it may be hoped we shall have plenty of lime brought from other parts of the country, where it exists in great abundance.

The grain crops of last year, though in some instances sown late, all answered remarkably well. It is not easy to obtain exact details that can be relied on, but I have been assured on authority that can be relied on, that on one of the farms in the vicinity of this town, two bushels and two gallons of bear barley were, on the 19th May, sown upon three-quarters of an acre of potato land, and from it were threshed 42 bushels of excellent quality, being at the rate of 56 bushels per acre. Of which 30 bushels were sold at 5*s.* currency per bushel for malting and brewing, and the crop paid the party better than any crop grown on an equal space of land for many years. Wheat has also been known on another farm in this neighbourhood to produce at the rate of 50 bushels per acre, and this is a heavy crop for any country. This large produce may be in a great degree attributed to the repeated applications of fish and other manures to the previous crops of potatoes.

In the past year, 1796 acres of land have been sold, the price at auction averaging about 10*s.* per acre. The number of separate grants, into which these lands were divided, amounted to 176.

My time and most vigilant attention has been occupied of late in the promotion and encouragement of the cultivation of the soil, and no endeavours have on my part been spared in inducing the people of this colony to raise crops of the different kinds of grain, so as to provide a substitute for the potato, heretofore the sole article of subsistence of the lower classes, and which can now never be safely relied on as a means of sustenance to a large population after its repeated failures here as well as elsewhere.

Large supplies of seed (wheat, barley, and oats), have been imported by the Government, as well as vegetable and various sorts of garden seeds; these will

be distributed in the course of this spring amongst the cultivators of land in the colony; and a committee of gentlemen is appointed, to whom such distribution has been entrusted. In the hope of adding a stimulus and an encouragement to the further cultivation of the soil, as also of inducing the working farmers to avail themselves of these opportunities, prizes have been offered for the clearance and planting of new virgin land; as also for the best crops of wheat, barley, and oats.

Two mills, adapted for the grinding of meal as well as grain, have likewise, with the assistance of Government, been established; the one in this town, and the other in Conception Bay.

By a steady perseverance on the part of the people in the prosecution of measures such as these, abundance and plenty will again be restored to this island, and the more general extension of agriculture will, I am confident, be attended with vast benefits to the present and future generations of Newfoundland.

Horticultural.—It has been frequently remarked by strangers as well as residents that the culinary vegetables grown here are not inferior to the best of their kinds in Europe, doubtless owing to the rapidity with which vegetation takes place, when the frigid temperature of winter is dispelled by the genial heat of summer weather, a change which, some seasons, occurs very suddenly.

All ordinary garden vegetables are grown with as little trouble as in England. Among those most commonly cultivated are lettuce, endive, radish, asparagus, seakale, beets, turnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, peas, beans, both French and broad, all of which attain maturity with common care, although in very few instances have they much of that skill and good management bestowed upon them, which in gardens in England appears almost a matter of course.

Melons and cucumbers are grown every year in slight hotbeds, and the latter may be transplanted from the seed-bed to the open air, where they will generally produce abundantly. Turnips, cabbages, and all of the Brassica tribe, have in the early stages numerous enemies in the turnip fly, caterpillars, &c., but independently of this the climate and soil are fitted to produce large crops of them.

It may be observed that many of the perennial and other herbaceous plants of Britain bear the severity of the Newfoundland winter well, among which may be mentioned the polyanthus, pansy, and sweet William, also pinks and carnations generally, and among bulbous roots all kinds of lily, even the white lily, tulip, hyacinths, &c., are rarely known to fail though kept in the ground all winter.

Of fruit trees, those of the more hardy kinds, and which produce their fruit at an early season, of course answer best. The climate is well adapted to gooseberries and currants of every variety, and they produce abundant crops almost invariably. The insect tribe alone seems inimical to them, and the trees are frequently divested of their foliage by caterpillars, except in low or moist situations, where these trees generally succeed best. Cherries of most kinds also bear the climate and produce well, but the Kentish and Mayduke may be relied on as standing the climate and bearing fruit as well as in England.

With respect to apples, pears, and plums, the early varieties only may be considered as well adapted. Plums of many kinds and damsons have been grown for many years in Conception Bay as well as in St. John's. The earliest kinds ripen, and the late sorts answer for culinary purposes. Raspberries and strawberries succeed as well here as in any country; they are, in fact, indigenous, and are found wild in considerable quantities. The cultivated kinds rarely if ever fail to yield fruit, and the strawberries are remarkable for abundant produce and fine flavour.

Fisheries.—Section 3.

Seal Fishery.—The capture of the seal for the sake of its skin, and the oil that is produced from its fat, has been an object to the inhabitants from its earliest settlement, either by means of nets along its shores, or by vessels proceeding to the fields of ice that annually drift from the arctic regions.

No date can be assigned when nets were first introduced, but the fishery by this means was carried on to some considerable extent on that part of the eastern coast, which was ceded to the French at the close of the last war, but

NEWFOUNDLAND.

now very few establishments exist in Newfoundland; but there are still some of considerable extent on the coasts of Labrador, and in the straits of Belle Isle.

The prosecution of the seal fishery by vessels is quite of a modern date, it being only 54 years ago that the first vessel sailed on this expedition, and it has in this short period arrived at its present extent, and now gives employment to near 11,000 men, actually engaged in catching the seal, and employs 340 vessels, of the aggregate burthen of 29,800 tons, new measurement. In 1793 a merchant of St. John's commenced it by fitting out two small vessels, of about 45 tons each, which sailed the first week in April, and were very successful, one returning with over 800 seals, and the other with not quite so many.

In the year 1796 four vessels sailed from St. John's, and a few from Conception Bay; originally the vessels engaged in this fishery were of a small description, even open boats that were employed in the cod fishery of 30 tons, and even less, were sent out on this hazardous voyage, and a few rarely exceeded 50 tons, with a crew of 11 men, but they gradually increased in size, and the number of hands sent in them. In fact there was for a long period a prejudice of employing vessels over 60 tons, as they were considered too large and too heavy to prosecute the fishery successfully; this prejudice existed even so late as the year 1825, when two vessels of 120 tons each were built in Conception Bay expressly for the seal fishery. Both of these vessels were very fortunate the first time of going out; one bringing home in the spring of the year 1826, 6666 seals, and the other 5828 seals.

This seems to have set the question as regarded size at rest, and from that period the old class vessels, of small tonnage, have been gradually superseded by those of a larger class. The vessels now engaged in the seal fishery are many of them over 115 tons, new measurement; or 140, old measurement; very few, indeed, now going out so small as 80 tons, new measurement.

This fishery is now of very great importance to the inhabitants of this colony, for besides employing 11,000 men in actually catching the seals, it gives employment to almost every class of mechanics, as well as common labourers, in manufacturing the seals, the value of which, in the spring of the past year, exceeded 214,000*l.* Its great value may be well imagined, when the shortness of the period of this fishery is considered; these large sums being realized within the space of six weeks.

The usual time of leaving for the ice is from the 1st to the 10th of March, if the vessels can get out, though formerly no vessel thought of leaving before the 25th of March to the 10th of April.

The crews are shipped on shares, each man being directly interested in the quantity of seals caught; they pay the owner a sum varying from 10*s.* to 35*s.* for being allowed to proceed in the vessel, which is called berth money; each man has to find a gun, or to pay the hire of one, and also has to find 25 sticks of firewood for fuel while on the voyage.

The owner of the vessel receives one-half the seals brought home in the vessel for fitting her out, &c., with all necessary material; the other half is taken by the crew, and equally divided among them according to the number, the owner receiving the master's share, who is paid by the owner 4*d.* to 6*d.* for each seal the vessel brings in, or 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per cwt., according to the agreement that may be made between them previous to the commencement of the voyage.

The vessels in Conception Bay are insured in mutual societies, that is, a certain number of owners enter into an agreement with each other that they will pay all losses that may occur to each other's vessels during the season. There are two of this description now in Conception Bay, one at Harbor Grace, the other at Brigus. Each one has a secretary, who keeps the records of the Society, for which he is paid 15*s.* for each vessel insured. There are also three surveyors to inspect the vessels previous to proceeding on the voyage, and to see they are properly equipped to encounter its dangers; they are paid a small sum for their services. The insurance in the Brigus society has been very light indeed, only five vessels having been lost since the year 1833, whereas the Harbor Grace Society has been very unfortunate lately, the losses being very heavy. The vessels of St. John's are insured in a society, and a certain premium is charged each vessel according to her class.

NUMBER of VESSELS sailing for the SEAL FISHERY, Spring, 1847.

	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Men.
St. John's	95	9,353	3,215
Brigus	66	5,010	2,111
Carbonear	54	4,634	1,672
Harbor Grace	51	5,084	1,684
Ports to the Northward	74	5,803	2,123
Total	340	29,884	10,805

Seals caught, Spring, 1847.	
Manufactured in St. John's	334,270
Manufactured in Conception and Trinity Bay	110,910
Total Number	455,180
Estimated Value of Seals caught, Spring, 1847	£214,175

Cod Fishery.—The extraordinary abundance of cod fish on the banks and shores of Newfoundland was speedily ascertained after the discovery of the island in the year 1479. The fishery in the year 1626 was rapidly growing into importance, and at that time the island began to supply the demand in Spain and Italy. At the close of the late war the fisheries rose to a pitch of prosperity quite unprecedented, the exports in the year 1814 amounting to 2,831,538*l.* When, however, peace was restored, the British Government conceded to France her extensive rights of fishing exactly as they stood at the commencement of the war; and now, owing to the large bounties with which that Government supports and encourages their fisheries, we are obliged to compete with them on very unequal terms in the supplying of foreign markets, so much so that the British Bank Fishery has ceased to exist, and the fisheries have dwindled down to an open boat in-shore fishery, and even that is year after year getting worse, and has ceased to give the remunerative employment to those engaged in it, as was the case in bygone years.

This fishery opens at the beginning of June, and lasts till about the middle of October, and may be said to form the staple occupation of the inhabitants of this colony; it is prosecuted by the planters and their assistant fishermen, who form one of the two classes of this community; they live under the control and influence of the other class, the merchant, on whom they are solely dependent for the supplies and requisite means for pursuing their calling.

By the census of 1845 the planters, fishermen, and shoremen amounted in number to 18,503 persons, and their boats, which are divided into three classes according to the burthen of fish they can carry, amounted to 10,089; the divisions being—8092 boats, carrying from 4 to 15 quintals of fish; 1025 boats, from 15 to 30 quintals; and 972 boats, from 30 quintals upwards.

The fish when cured is sold and delivered to the merchants, who on receiving it have it divided into four qualities, viz., merchantable, Madeira or seconds, West India or third quality, and lastly inferior, which is about half the price of merchantable; Madeira is 1*s.* a quintal under merchantable, and 1*s.* 6*d.* more than West India.

The quantity of dried cod fish exported in the year 1847 was 837,973 quintals, the value of which may be estimated at 489,940*l.*

The liver of the cod yields a large quantity of oil, which is extracted from it by natural heat, no other preparation being necessary than merely putting it into casks, and when it is fully decayed drawing off the oil. A quintal of good fish will yield more than a gallon of oil, but the produce of the season is not more than 80 gallons to 100 quintals of fish.

The quantity of cod oil exported in the past year was 2369 tuns, the value of which may be estimated at 60,329*l.*

Herring Fishery.—Though the shores of Newfoundland swarm with herrings from March to December, yet the curing of these valuable fish have been in a certain degree totally neglected, though there is no country in the world better adapted for prosecuting this fishery with success. It is the opinion of many persons well versed in the trade, that if proper attention was paid to it, and more care used in curing them than there is at present, in a few years the fishery would rise to such an importance, as not merely to be an auxiliary to the cod fishery as it is at present, but that it would almost rival it. In the past year the number of barrels exported was 9907, and their value may be estimated at 5111*l.*

Salmon Fishery.—The salmon fishery has been carried on in this country from its earliest discovery, and nearly to the same extent as it is at present. The export of them has ranged from 2500 to 5000 tierces of 300 lbs. each for the past 50 years, though that is not near half the quantity caught, as a great

NEWFOUNDLAND.

deal of salmon is shipped at the Labrador and parts of Newfoundland, the accounts of which do not pass through the Custom House, being sold generally to American traders, who buy them loose from 18*s.* to 25*s.* per 100 lbs. The number of barrels exported in the past year was 4917, the value of which may be taken at 9782*l.*

Banks, Exchanges, Monies, Weights and Measures.—Section 4.

The Bank of British North America has a branch established in St. John's. Excepting by this bank, no other paper money is issued in the colony; the amount of its paper currency is not known.

A savings' bank was established under an Act of the Legislature, in the year 1834. The members of the Executive Council, and an equal number of the members of the General Assembly, including the Speaker, constitute the Board of Directors; the office of Cashier is filled by the Colonial Treasurer for the time being. The amount deposited is between 51,000*l.* and 52,000*l.* The number of depositors at the close of last year was 643; the weekly deposits average about 347*l.* In addition to three per cent. interest on the amount of deposits, a bonus of one per cent. for one year is given on sums not exceeding 50*l.* that had been deposited 12 months previous to the close of the year's accounts.

The greater part of the trade of the colony being effected in barter, it is impossible to give any accurate information as to the amount of coin in circulation; but it has been conjectured to be from 80,000*l.* to 100,000*l.* British money and Spanish dollars are the coins in circulation, the latter established by the Governor's Proclamation at 4*s.* 4*d.* sterling, but passing current at 5*s.*

The course of exchange varies according to circumstances and to the demand for bills to remit to England in payment of goods and merchandize imported into the colony, and generally highest in the autumn. The demand is governed in a great measure by the result of the cod and spring seal fisheries. If successful, remittances are made chiefly in oil; if otherwise, Bills of Exchange are remitted. The par of exchange is 15⅓ per cent. currency premium. The exchange occasionally rises to from 2 to 6 or 7 above par, but rarely falls below it.

Weights and measures are according to the standard of England, as prescribed by the Colonial Act, 4 Wm. IV., cap. 9.

Imports and Exports.—Section 5.

Imports in the year	1847 .	£843,409	Exports in the year	1847 .	£806,565
„	1846 .	802,247	„	1846 .	759,103
„	1845 .	801,330	„	1845 .	939,436

The amount of exports in the year 1847 show an increase of 47,462*l.* compared with the value of the exports of the year 1846; but if compared with the value of the exports in the year 1845, the year preceding that in which the colony was subjected to a series of calamities in the shortness of the fisheries, the failure of the potato crop, the destruction by fire of a great part of the capital, and the hurricane which devastated the coasts on the 19th September, exhibit a decrease of 132,871*l.*

The following tables, exhibiting a comparative statement of the quantity and value of the staple articles of produce exported in the three years above referred to, will best show the items in which this deficiency occurs:—

Quantity.

Years.	Dried Fish.	Oils.	Seal Skins.	Salmon.	Herrings.
	Quintals.	Tuns.	Number.	Tierces.	Barrels.
1845	1,000,233	8,670	352,202	3,545	20,903
1846	879,015	7,507	265,169	5,201	12,119
				Barrels.	
1847	837,973	8,624	436,831	4,917	9,907
	Value.				
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1845	596,990	243,646	40,123	12,794	11,234
1846	504,008	182,974	29,500	10,598	6,876
1847	489,940	229,185	46,280	9,782	5,111

Shipping.

Ships owned and registered in the colony—

1845	907
1846	937
1847	950

Ships built in the colony—

1845.	No. 32 . .	Tons 1607
1846.	No. 31 . .	„ 1723
1847.	No. 17 . .	„ 854

Revenue and Expenditure.—Section 6.

The duties levied under the Customs Acts, Imperial and Colonial, form almost the entire of the revenue of the colony, the sums raised under these heads in the year 1847 being—Imperial, 621*l.* 12*s.*; Colonial, 52,127*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*: in all, 58,339*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* Compared with the revenue from the same sources in the year 1846, there is an apparent increase of 2433*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, while had it not been for an additional 10 per cent. imposed at the commencement of the year on all imports into the town of St. John's, which produced 4000*l.*, there would have been an actual decrease of 1532*l.*

The total revenue of the colony in the year 1845 amounted to 60,303*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; in the year 1846, 76,760*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; in the year 1847, 69,253*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The apparent great increase in the year 1846 was occasioned by the raising, under a Colonial Act, a loan of 16,615*l.*

The increase in the year 1847 over that of 1845 was occasioned by transferring, under your Lordship's sanction, from the Imperial grant to the colony, in consequence of the losses sustained by the fire on the 9th June, 1846, a sum of 5000*l.* for the relief of the destitute poor generally throughout the island, as also by the raising of a small loan, and the additional 10 per cent. on the imports into the town of St. John's, before adverted to.

The expenditure of the colony in the last two years, compared with the year preceding the fire, exhibits a very large increase. Compared with the year 1845, the year 1846 shows an increase of expenditure of 11,346*l.* 2*s.* 5*d*; the year 1847 an increase over that of 1846 of 638*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; and compared with that of 1845 an increase of 11,984*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

To account for this large increase of expenditure, I need but refer to the charges on the revenue for the support of the poor in these two last years. The amount expended for the poor in the year 1845 was 2923*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; in the year 1846, 7052*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, an increase beyond the expenditure of the year preceding of 4129*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*; in the year 1847, 13,339*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, exceeding the amount expended in the year 1846 by 6286*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*; and that of 1845 by 10,416*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

In addition to this, the Executive have, under your Lordship's authority, expended from the relief money of the fire sufferers upwards of 11,000*l.* for the relief of the destitute generally in the colony, so that in the year just passed the amount expended by Government for the relief of the poor throughout the island exceeds 24,000*l.*, nearly half the ordinary revenue of the colony.

The state of the finances of the colony presents, I regret to say, a very cheerless aspect, and with the large amount of debt with which the colony is saddled, their extrication from their present difficulties must be both slow and gradual. The first step in the right direction will be removing the charges incurred in the support of the poor from the public Treasury; for if the present system of the State maintaining the whole pauper population of the colony is persisted in for any lengthened period, the whole credit of the colony must be annihilated. The subject will, immediately on the meeting of the Legislature, be brought under their consideration, and I trust we shall be enabled, by the revision of the existing laws and the adoption of other measures of a more wholesome character, to supersede the present loose and unsatisfactory way in which the relief to the poor is now administered throughout the colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,

&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

ABSTRACT RETURNS of the POPULATION, &c., of NEWFOUNDLAND, according to the Census of 1845.

Name of Districts.	Inhabitants.	Professional Men, and Persons not otherwise described.	Planters, Fishermen, and Shoremen.	Tradesmen.	Farmers.	Dwelling-houses.	Males.			Females.			Of what Religion.						Number of Churches.					
							Under 14 Years.	From 14 to 70 Years.	Above 70 Years.	Under 14 Years.	From 14 to 70 Years.	Above 70 Years.	Protestant Episcopalians.	Roman Catholics.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyans.	Congregationalists.	Protestants of other Denominations.	Protestant Episcopalians.	Presbyterian.	Roman Catholics.	Wesleyans.	Congregationalist.	Protestants of other Denominations.
St. John's	25,196	388	2,386	889	500	4,410	4,937	8,182	58	4,862	7,102	55	4,226	18,986	529	1,075	365	15	10	1	5	4	1	..
Conception Bay	28,026	257	6,152	321	37	4,196	6,035	8,697	167	5,786	7,156	185	8,601	11,580	16	7,800	27	2	13	..	10	16	..	..
Trinity Bay	8,801	37	1,967	81	5	1,363	1,992	2,649	48	1,903	2,155	54	4,753	1,283	11	2,752	2	..	12	..	2	8	..	..
Bonavista Bay	7,227	46	1,259	31	6	1,039	1,664	2,241	38	1,544	1,700	40	4,684	1,809	7	727	..	..	11	..	2	1	..	..
Twillingate and Fogo	6,744	46	1,363	16	..	988	1,563	2,183	25	1,436	1,529	8	5,017	1,128	2	597	..	..	7	..	3	2	..	..
Ferryland	4,370	41	700	22	11	780	856	1,512	44	848	1,079	31	168	4,201	1	..	..	..	1	..	9	..	..	..
Placentia and St. Mary's	6,473	34	1,589	43	57	960	1,332	2,196	50	1,340	1,533	22	971	5,455	8	37	..	2	4	..	9	..	..	..
Burin	4,358	28	1,531	9	2	634	911	1,544	30	905	957	11	1,221	1,951	2	1,183	..	1	1	..	2	3	..	..
Fortune Bay	5,100	37	1,556	77	3	721	1,057	2,026	26	959	1,003	29	4,640	392	..	68	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	96,295	914	18,503	1,489	621	15,091	20,347	31,230	486	19,583	24,214	435	34,281	46,785	576	14,239	394	20	64	1	42	34	1	..

Name of Districts.	Schools.					Sealing Vessels.		Banking Vessels.		Number of Fishing Boats.			Number of Cod Seines.	Number of Sealing Nets.	Acres of Land.		Average Annual Produce.				Live Stock.						
	Number.	Conducted by Masters.		Conducted by Mistresses		Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	From 4 to 15 Quintals.	From 15 to 30 Quintals.	30 Quintals and upwards.			In Possession.	In Cultivation.	Barrels of Potatoes.	Bushels of Oats and other Grain.	Tons of Hay.	Tons of Straw or Fodder.	Horses.		Neat Cattle.		Number of Sheep.	Number of Pigs.	Number of Goats.
		Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.	Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.																Number.	Bred in this Island.	Number.	Bred in this Island.			
St. John's	52	1,339	669	215	397	173	16,138	3	190	690	55	30	30	2	63,777	19,099	48,543	3,436	3,469	844	771	227	1,307	360	228	577	1,125
Conception Bay	51	1,841	1,180	36	146	235	18,713	..	..	2,445	97	148	313	70	8,375	3,798	152,878	6,798	2,108	221	949	871	1,576	1,436	2,243	2,164	2,944
Trinity Bay	22	547	454	19	29	34	2,763	..	..	1,153	190	46	114	267	1,478	1,079½	29,623	8	516	3	121	116	997	969	179	429	187
Bonavista Bay	17	362	194	..	73	26	1,792	..	..	207	205	121	155	1,884	808½	612	25,971	272	356	1½	52	51	505	465	243	881	680
Twillingate and Fogo	10	218	202	..	..	20	969	22	673	925	51	38	93	2,316	591	406½	13,862	14	51	1¾	5	4	276	163	38	193	338
Ferryland	22	518	289	3	135	6	514	..	..	648	72	84	47	..	2,275½	1,202½	28,556	556	878½	37	176	174	607	599	315	129	276
Placentia and St. Mary's	11	294	228	29	32	4	168	..	..	458	158	226	76	..	4,272½	2,200	28,759½	588	1,557	16	245	230	1,618	1,613	1,938	518	226
Burin	11	165	188	40	35	..	..	..	..	380	127	202	43	..	1,531½	1,047	11,081	20	777	½	85	85	889	883	127	101	8
Fortune Bay	10	184	170	16	19	24	666	..	..	1,186	70	85	8	29	326½	211½	2,067½	3	174	2½	5	4	360	314	439	85	7
Grand Total	209	5,468	3,574	358	866	522	41,723	25	863	8,092	1,025	972	879	4,568	83,435½	29,656½	341,341	11,695	9,886½	1,127½	2,409	1,762	8,135	6,802	5,750	5,077	5,791

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. 2 in No. 4.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

ABSTRACT RETURN of the POPULATION, &c. of ST. JOHN'S.

Inhabitants.	Professional Men and Merchants.	Fishermen and Shoremen.	Tradesmen.	Houses.	Warehouses.	Wharfs.	Shipping.	Shipping, Foreign.
25,196	388	2386	889	4410	45	42	Entered inwards, Port of St. John's, 1847, 861 vessels. Tonnage, 102,206. Men, 6077. Outwards, 831 vessels. Tonnage, 99,244. Men, 6208.	861 vessels. Tonnage, 102,206. Men, 6077.

Coasting Vessels.	Boats.	Cod Fishery.	Seal Fishery.	Herring Fishery.	Salmon Fishery.
No accounts kept.	775	Men employed, 1193. Quintals, 502,138. Oil, 1736 tuns. Value, average 20*l.* to 25*l.* per tun.	Vessels fitted out, 95. Tonnage, 9353. Men employed, 3215. Oil, 4623 tuns. Value, average 25*l.* to 28*l.* per tun.	Number of barrels cured annually, 10,000. Average price, 13*s.* per barrel.	Sold fresh at St. John's, at from 5*d.* to 7*d.* per lb. In the Out Ports, cured for exportation, about 1800 tierces. Value, 4*l.* per tierce.

(No. 75.) No. 5. No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Sir J. G. LE MARCHANT.

SIR, Downing-street, June 2, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 19, of the 4th ultimo, transmitting the "Blue Book" for Newfoundland for the year 1847, and enclosing a Report on the general state of the colony.

I have to convey to you my thanks for this very clear and able Report.

I have, &c.,

Sir J. G. Le Marchant, &c. &c. (Signed) GREY.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor ELLIOT to Earl GREY.

Bermuda, April 20, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received May* 23, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1847.

Taxes and Duties.

In the year 1846 the charge of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on the unenumerated articles (of an average value during the last three years of about 100,000*l.*, or nearly three-fourths of the whole imports) was reduced to 1½ per cent., and last year to 1 per cent., leaving the revenue at the end of 1847, at nearly the same amount that it stood at the end of 1845, under the higher scale.

This Legislature, following the example of others in the neighbourhood, has repealed the imperial duties; and though the Act has not yet been left to its operation, I think it convenient to contrast the present and proposed scheme of finance in this place.

BERMUDA.

December 31, 1846.

	Gallons.	Duty.
Rum at 1*s.* per gallon, . .	34,020	£1,551
Brandy and gin at 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon	13,693	1,027
Wine, at 1*s.* per gallon .	6,760	338
Malt liquors produced . .	..	534
Cigars „ . .	..	55
Cordials „ . .	..	11
Gallons Spirits and Wine	51,473	£3,516
Specific duties paid at the Treasury, 1½ per cent. on value of 99,000*l.* . .		1,485
Annual average amount Customs duties		5,000
		£10,000

Proposed Colonial Tariff.

	Probable Income.
Wines of all kinds, 2*s.* per gallon . .	£ 676
Brandy, gin, and cordials, 2*s.* 3*d.* per gallon	1,550
Rum, 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon	2,325
Malt liquors, the hogshead, 15*s.* . .	534
Cigars, the thousand, 8*s.*	55
Tobacco and snuff, the lb., 1*d.* . .	100
Manufactured goods and all articles not enumerated in the above schedule, nor comprised in the subjoined table of Exemptions, probable value, 81,000*l.*, (3½ per cent. *ad valorem*) .	2,835
	£8,075

The Committee of the House of Assembly, which reported the present project, has computed the public charge for supporting the Government at about 8000*l.*, and estimates that their own tariff would produce about 8075*l.* That calculation, however, is confined to the fixed charge of supporting the Government; but it will be observed, from the statement appended to this report, that the average annual expenditure chargeable to this colony for the last three years has been about 12,000*l.* I have said chargeable to the colony, because there is a Parliamentary grant of 4050*l.* in aid of the revenue. The present charge to the colony for collecting the imperial and other duties amounts to about 2000*l.*, of which the large proportion of 1500*l.* is paid to the actual Custom-house establishment. The Committee contemplates a saving of 800*l.* or 1000*l.* under that head; but considering that most of the colonial offices necessary for the collection of the revenue will have to be created, I should apprehend that this amount of reduction will hardly be realized. All practicable economy should of course be effected in this and every other branch of the public service: but in organizing a colonial fiscal system by duties on imports, it is to be hoped it will be remembered that the plan of low salaries to the revenue officers has been tried in several parts of the world, under very varying circumstances of society and government, and the results everywhere have been extremely unsatisfactory both to the revenue and the fair dealer. I may observe on this subject, that this colony, with its very small population, is, nevertheless, in a peculiar situation as to the means of raising revenue on very easy terms to the inhabitants, by a judicious tariff; and it is quite possible at Bermuda to collect a diminished revenue in a manner which would operate more burdensomely on the trade and well-understood interests of the people than a larger amount under a differently adjusted tariff. The explanation is, that there are large public establishments here, paid by the Imperial Treasury, and it may safely be said that more than half of the colonial revenue accrues from the expenditure of persons belonging to these services. The resources, too, and favourable prospects of the islands are steadily improving, and it is not probable that the claims of the community for needful and eventually remunerative assistance, for facilities of communication, education and several other heads of outlay will be less in future than they have been for some years. I trust that all these considerations will have their due weight in the new finance arrangements.

The most prudent plan, in my opinion, in the circumstances of Bermuda, where the land is extensively lying waste, and where, on the other hand, the effective demanders of goods are very numerous relatively to the population, would be to take the present tariff and expenditure for a basis, to add nothing to any of the duties actually levied, but to effect gradual reductions through the whole list, beginning with the articles of primary necessity, and proceeding upwards in that order as the revenue mended or the expenditure decreased. A large list of exemptions, and an additional duty on the imports forming the staple of the merchant's traffic, will, I hope, be avoided.

It is, no doubt, to be wished that the improved state of the land and the general condition of the inhabitants in respect of other property, were such as to warrant a different mode of taxation. That, however, is not the case; and, if it were, the feeling of the people would probably be found to be decidedly opposed to direct taxation for the support of the government. But, at all

events, when it is determined that the general revenue is to be raised by duties on the imports, it is equitable to the body of the traders and tax-payers that the list of exemptions should be extremely limited, and the duties spread over the whole imports of the colony. It is to be regretted that the proposed increase of 2½ per cent. in the new tariff on unenumerated articles, will fall chiefly upon British trade, which decreased from 51,000*l.* in 1846, to 41,000*l.* in 1847.

Fees.

By an Act passed during the last session, certain fees on shipping and the crews and passengers therein, have been abolished. The office of the deputy secretary at St. George's, on a salary of 60*l.* per annum, was also abolished by this Act; and the effect of it, on the vacancy of their offices by the present Governor and Secretary, will be a reduction of the charges on shipping of about 400*l.* a-year. These fees depended partly upon a law of William and Mary, and partly upon long custom, applicable to a state of circumstances which have long passed away. The late arrangement was made in a spirit of equitable compensation to the present officers.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue, with diminished taxation, during the past two years has now very nearly recovered the same figure; having been—

In 1845 . . .	£18,771
In 1847 . . .	18,239

The expenditure has increased from 16,819*l.*, in 1845, to 18,189*l.*, in 1847: 1370*l.* excess; which excess is to be ascribed to increased expenditure for churches, public works, the establishment of the new light-house, and 500*l.* last year towards relief of distress in the United Kingdom.

The light money collected since the establishment was opened, on the 1st May, 1846, has been—

In 1846 . . .	£283
In 1847 . . .	533
Total . .	£816

against the total expense to the colony up to December 31, 1847, of 1124*l.*

This admirable light, besides contributing inappreciably to the security of navigation in these seas, has already brought several thousand tons of shipping into the harbours of Bermuda for refuge and repairs, to the great advantage of the trade of the colony. The actual excess of expenditure over the light money collected in 1847 (the first whole year that the light has been burning) was about 131*l.*

It is noticeable that the duties on rum and sugar under the Imperial Acts have decreased considerably during the last three years:—

	1845.	1846.	1847.
	£.	£.	£.
Spirits and Cordials, including Rum . . .	899	843	506
Sugar	1,823	1,237	874
	2,722	2,080	1,380

Whilst, however, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of imports of this description since 1845.

	Total Value in 1845.	Total Value in 1847.	Duty in 1845.	Duty in 1847.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Molasses and Syrups . .	835	1,694	127	242
Sugar	8,135	9,360	1,822	874
Spirits and Cordials, including Rum . . .	4,929	6,255	899	506
	13,899	17,309	2,848	1,622

BERMUDA.

The diminution of sugar and spirit duties under the Imperial Acts must therefore be attributed to the increased consumption of British plantation sugar and rum in this colony since 1845. These commodities were chiefly imported for some years past from Cuba and Porto Rico. It may be, that the rising price in those ports since the relaxation on that kind of produce in the United Kingdom will explain this circumstance. And it appears to confirm this view that molasses have been more freely imported here from foreign possessions during the last two years.

Molasses, Total Value from Foreign Ports in 1845.	Total Value from Foreign Ports in 1847.	Total Duty in 1845.	Total Duty in 1847.
£.	£.	£.	£.
425	1,694	127	242

It is much to be hoped in this colony, where we have a large force of troops and resident establishments paid by Her Majesty, and where we are visited every year by ships of war, transports, and numerous passengers, that the duties on light wines and malt liquors will be laid much lower than they are, either in the present or proposed tariffs, and that the duties upon the inexpensive kinds of spirits will be kept as high as may be, without inducing the mischief of smuggling. This principle of taxation and improved intelligence seem the most hopeful means of checking the fatal abuse of ardent spirits into which soldiers and sailors, and the working classes, are too prone to fall, especially in hot climates. It claims consideration also, that the chief consumers of malt liquors and wines are the officers in the Queen's service, who derive least benefit from the Colonial revenue, whilst they contribute largely to it, and liberally in the support of charities and the schools. If this class of consumers is levied upon unequally, they may probably import more and purchase less on the spot, and therefore a disproportioned incidence of taxation in that direction may have an unfavourable effect on the local trade. But there are other reasons for a contracted list of exemptions in this colony, and for dispersing the imposts over the general consumption.

It is to be considered that a large part of the people have only recently emerged from slavery, and that the price of common labour here is 2*s*. 6*d*. per diem, and of artisans, 5*s*. or 6*s*., with no want of employment for industrious and steady men. I suppose it may be taken for granted, that the right exercise of equal privileges and extending civilization in these parts of the world must follow a common law of human progress. These things must be diligently pursued and maintained at some cost to be justly valued; but in this genial climate, and with the waters full of fish, higher wants and habits of industry and thrift can only be formed by a necessity for continuous exertion. It seems reasonable, therefore, to infer that a fair share of the support of the Government, and the keenness to their own rights and interests incited by that obligation will be helpful to the coloured races, and I think that circumstance is perfectly understood by the intelligent amongst them.

The treasurer of Bermuda is paid by a per centage on the revenue; a bad practice, which, I hope, will be remedied in the new arrangements by awarding to him a fixed salary, liberally proportioned to his labour and responsibilities. The opinions and testimony of that officer on all subjects connected with the revenue should be freed of the imputation of personal bias. At present his duties to the community and his interests are in opposite scales.

Local Revenue.

The local revenue and expenditure of the nine parishes in these islands have hardly varied during the last 10 years. They continue to stand at about 1500*l*.; neither has there been much difference in the amount devoted to the maintenance of the poor.

	£.
In 1839 that charge was	371
In 1847 „	441
Difference . .	70

whilst the population in that interval has increased from 9500 to about 11,000. Since emancipation, marriage has become general amongst the people of colour, associating them into families connected with and helpful to each other. Making steady progress in intelligence, substance, and self-respect, they are conscientiously discharging the duty of providing for their aged and infirm relatives; with the increasing interval since emancipation, and after the old and unconnected persons formerly in slavery have passed away, there is no reason to think that the proportion of the people of colour receiving aid from the parishes will preponderate.

The affairs of the corporation of Hamilton are judiciously managed, and in a good condition. In 1839, there was a debt of 2000*l.*, with an income of 600*l.* In 1847, there was a debt due to the corporation, of 1200*l.*, with an income of 1268*l.* The town continues to increase in size, and general improvement proceeds prudently and satisfactorily.

The corporation of St George's has for many years had a debt of 2000*l.* without assets to pay principal or interest. There is a Government House there in the centre of the town, not furnished by the colony, and the repair of which is some charge on the general revenue. It stands upon a domain of about 25 acres, belonging to Her Majesty, and I believe the best use which could be made of it, would be, to grant it to trustees to sell for building lots; the proceeds to form a fund for general town uses.

Convict Expenditure.

During the last half-year of 1847, the supply, payment, and account of the Convict department have devolved upon the Commissary, subject to directions from the Governor, and the system of purchase and sub-account by the overseers has been entirely abolished. This alteration has been attended with economy and simplification of account.

We compute the cost of a convict to the public at the Bermuda establishment, including the expense of the passage out, and every other charge to be about 20*l.* per annum, and the value of his labour to be 33*l.* per annum. But with the whole establishment on shore at Boaz Island, the annual charge for the repairs of the hulks will disappear, (necessarily increasing as the hulks grow older), and reductions may also be gradually effected in the number of officers on the higher scales of salaries. For example, instead of four overseers at Ireland Island, on a salary of 200*l.* a-year, and one at St. George's, for five hulks, (*i. e.*, 1000*l.* under that head), I think that it will not be necessary to have more than two officers on the allowances of overseer, when the prisoners are lodged on shore. Other parts of the establishment will also admit of some reduction when the mass of the prisoners are concentrated; and the entire management of the sick by the medical officers of the establishment in an infirmary attached to it, will effect a saving of at least one-half the present charge.

Her Majesty's Government, however, are aware that beyond economical considerations, there are other strong reasons for the earliest practicable removal of the prisoners to buildings on shore; and it is a source of satisfaction that Boaz Island, and the islet contiguous to it are so suitable for these purposes. This property was purchased for 1695*l.*

The considerable increase of convicts within the last 12 months, from 1350 to 1750, disposes me respectfully to renew the suggestion, whether additional military security may not be best and most economically provided by the formation of a small colonial sea fencible force, to work one or two very light draft steam-boats, capable of navigating the inlets of this group; such, for example, as are used between London and Woolwich. Organization of that kind for the easy and sudden concentration of force is peculiarly adapted to Bermuda, where the deep indentations of the shore by the sea, and the limited breadth of the islands from coast to coast have made the waters the high roads, and by-paths of the colony. It is my own belief, that the present military strength with those means of rapid movement, would be as effective as an additional battalion of infantry, without such facilities. The expense might be considerably reduced, by allowing the boats to ply as passage-vessels, to the inhabitants on moderate charges. It is, of course, only proposed that the quota

BERMUDA.

of sea fencibles actually on duty should be paid and rationed, and the reduction of sailing boats now in use for military service would be another offset against this charge. The people of Bermuda have always manifested insuperable repugnance to a militia force, but they are well suited, and would be found well disposed for maritime organization. The training of Her Majesty's subjects (inhabitants of hot climates) to the service of the engine-room, would, I am sure, be otherwise useful.

Public Works.

Since the year 1844, the ship channel leading into St. George's Harbour has been widened and deepened by sub-marine blasting, under the sanction, and with the assistance of Her Majesty's Government. The colonial rates for this work amount to 2000*l.*, and I trust it will be completed this year to the extent originally intended, without further assistance from the Legislature. The harbour of St. George's has been considerably improved by these operations with much advantage to that town, and to the trade of the colony.

A new gaol has been constructed in the town of St. George's, at an expense to the colony of 1800*l.*, and is nearly ready for the reception of prisoners. There are 20 cells for prisoners, besides debtors' rooms, and a convenient space for a yard. The building is well situated in every respect. A hospital for insane paupers capable of holding 8 or 10 patients has also been completed, and is now ready. The charge for this work, inclusive of the site, has been 1100*l.* Indigent lunatics have hitherto been confined in the gaols, a practice which was attended with serious inconvenience.

In the last Session of the Legislature, a vote was made of 1500*l.*, (payable in three annual instalments of 500*l.* each, in the three successive years next after the passing of the resolution), in aid of the opening of the Staggs Channel into the Great Sound, for the admission of ships of a large class. That operation would neither be difficult nor expensive, and I think must be considered to be the most important work which remains to be achieved at this depôt, both for the interests of the empire, and of the islands. The Great Sound is perhaps the finest and safest harbour on this side of the Queen's dominions, and there is no other available harbour here for the ships of the largest class which can enter these waters. The anchorage of Grassy Bay (Ireland Island) is very limited in extent, and somewhat exposed in the heavy north-easterly gales of the winter season, particularly for light-anchored merchant ships. Line-of-battle ships and heavy frigates could not go into St. George's.

I cannot dismiss the subject of Colonial Public Works without expressing the hope that the Legislature will place their superintendence, including the roads, under the commanding Royal Engineer. From want of proper skill in lining and constructing the roads, they have been a heavy and constant drain upon the resources of the colony. Indeed, generally there is much need for systematic and vigilant supervision of the outlay for Colonial Public Works.

Education.

Till last session of the Legislature it had been found impracticable in this colony to establish any system for the promotion of general education. But by the Act of 1847, in aid of the establishment of schools, a Board of Education has been formed, and the appropriation committed to their disposal. This scheme proposes to assist and encourage education on the principles which the projectors of the schools may see fit to prefer, and to incite emulation and raise the standard of instruction by impartial but vigilant inspection. It will be seen by the following statement, that this measure has already had a good effect. At the Admiralty school on Ireland Island, no difficulty is found in the association of the coloured and white children. At St. George's also, the feeling upon that subject is gradually giving way, and in the course of a few years I hope that the people generally will send their children to the schools, where they can find the best instruction for which they can afford to pay, without regard to other considerations.

Years.	Free Schools.	Males.	Females.	Total Number.	Expenditure.	Private Schools.	Remarks.
1846	17	378	322	700	Colonial Treasury £239 Private Subscription 356 £595	18	Before passing of the Act.
1847	24	526	578	1064	Colonial Treasury £600 Private Subscription 553 £1153	19	Since passing of the Act.

Agriculture.

No statistical returns have been taken since 1843, but I propose, in the ensuing session, to move the Legislature to provide for that object. Twice in periods of 10 years seem to be convenient intervals for ascertaining the condition of the colony in those respects, and as the Legislature may soon be engaged in the revision of the system of revenue, accurate information must be essential. The agriculture, or it should more properly be said, the horticulture and orange orchards of the islands make satisfactory progress. Much more land has been cleared during the last two years, and more industry and skill devoted to these pursuits. With the approaching steam communication between the islands and the North American continent, the land will, I hope, return good profits on the outlay. It produces potatoes well, whilst we crop at nearly the same seasons that they plant; and the oranges of Bermuda are certainly as fine as any that I have seen, and may, of course, be carried by steam in a state of high perfection to the markets of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

Since I have been here, the reserve stocks of live cattle have several times been nearly exhausted, owing to disasters at sea, and in my despatches I have submitted the importance of encouraging the people of Bermuda to rear and stall live cattle for the consumption of the public establishments. I believe the safest plan would be to contract for the supply of three days' fresh meat a-week for a force not exceeding a given number of men, but to relieve the contractors of the obligation to maintain reserves, and to devolve that necessity upon the Commissariat; that department working off or preserving their stocks by one, two, or three days' additional supply of fresh meat a-week, according to the condition of the contractors' stocks. When the people understand that they can always find a sale for live cattle at the Commissariat pens, the importation of cattle at the most favourable seasons, as well as their rearing and stalling, will become an important part of the general business of the islands. In this way, effective reserves of live cattle will be spread over the whole face of the colony, instead of being very imperfectly maintained in the contractors' stalls. Raising or keeping live stock for the consumption of the public establishments would always be a safe business here under this system; for tempestuous weather makes importation of that cargo very precarious during six months of the year. With a little practice and skill, I believe it will be found that there are few places of an equal extent of acreage where live cattle may be stalled at a cheaper rate than Bermuda. Some description of green fodder or suitable nourishment may be taken from the land during every month of the year, and we are close to markets where the proportion of hay which may be necessary for a few years can be procured at very low rates at the proper seasons for making such purchases.

This mode of maintaining reserves would keep the contract prices steadily lower, besides adding greatly to the military security of the post, and the general improvement of the islands as a depôt. At present the larger part of the expenditure for the fresh beef supply of Bermuda is paid to the United States.

The apprehension of a dearth of food which prevailed during last spring, led to the extensive planting of ground provisions, particularly sweet potatoes, a very valuable and certain crop here. I believe the islands never produced such a large and valuable addition to the subsistence of the people as during the past year. The amount and value of the productions of the soil exported during that year have also considerably increased.

To 5th January, 1847, they amounted to . . . £ 7,950
To 5th January, 1848, to 12,250

BURMUDA.

And the quantity grown and consumed in the islands and exported during the current year, will be still larger. I find it difficult to leave this subject without acknowledging the great service rendered to the agriculture of this colony by my predecessor. He found it entirely neglected, and left it in a hopeful condition.

Money.

Governor Reid, in his report with the Blue Book of 1844, exhibited a table showing the expenditure incurred for the naval and military protection of Bermuda, and in aid of the civil establishments, for 10 years ending on the 31st December, 1844. That year was the last of the system of supplying the Commissariat chest by direct importations of specie from Mexico, and I have deemed it desirable to continue that statement from the end of 1844 to the end of 1847, as well as to show the amount of bullion imported for public service from Great Britain and other parts of the world during the same period.

"*Memorandum by Assistant Commissary-General in Charge.*

"ACCOUNT of the EXPENDITURE incurred by Great Britain for the Naval and Military Protection of Bermuda, and in aid of the Civil Establishment, from the 1st January, 1845, to 31st December, 1847.

Years.	Paid on the spot from the Commissariat Chest.	Officers paid in England, and Provisions.	General Total for each Year.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1845 .	80,266 7 4	13,256 14 1	93,523 1 5
1846 .	80,242 5 8	13,903 7 6	94,145 13 2
1847 .	*77,640 19 5	*15,684 13 9	93,325 13 2

The average expenditure during the three years ending December 31, 1844, was £101,000 per annum.

* Regimental officers have the option of receiving their pay either from the Commissariat chest or through their agents in England, and consequently these amounts vary accordingly, but it will be seen that the general totals correspond nearly.

"ACCOUNT of BULLION imported from England, or other parts of Her Majesty's Dominions, since the abolition of the Mexican System of Supply; with Remarks on the subject of the Circulating Medium of the Colony, and the cheapest mode of sustaining it, as requested by his Excellency Governor Elliot.

Date.	From whom received.	British Gold.	British Silver.	Total.
		£.	£.	£.
1846, August . .	C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.	..	5,000	5,000
September .	Ditto	..	5,000	5,000
1847, February .	Ditto	5,000	5,000	10,000
April . .	Ditto	10,000	..	10,000
August . .	Ditto	..	10,000	10,000
1848, January . .	Ditto	5,000	5,000	10,000
	Total . .	20,000	30,000	50,000

"Since the abolition of the Commissariat establishment in Mexico, by which "the supplies of specie were obtained, the chest in this command has been "altogether supplied by negotiations of Treasury bills, aided by occasional "consignments of British coin from England, as shown above, and this I con- "sider to be the best and cheapest mode of sustaining it, and at the same time "to maintain the circulating medium of the colony, especially in small coinage, "of which I believe there was formerly great want.

"The requisitions made to the Treasury by my predecessor and myself, have "been for silver in preference to gold, the latter seldom returns to the Com- "missariat chest, being, I imagine exported to the United States, and other "parts, or taken by persons proceeding to England and elsewhere, as the most "convenient coin; but British silver remains in the colony generally, and is "therefore available as a circulating medium. The consignments of gold from "England, in February and April, 1847, arose from the scarcity of silver coin

" to meet the great demands for payment of the thousands employed on the " Public Works in Ireland, and the railroads in England.

" Dollars have almost disappeared here since the importations by the Com- " missariat from Mexico have ceased, and as a proof thereof, the following is a " statement of the coins received into the chest during the last three years, in " exchange for bills on the Treasury.

	In British Money.	In Dollars.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.
From 1st April, 1845, to 31st March, 1846 . .	1,120	42,542	43,662
From 1st April, 1846, to 31st March, 1847 . .	675	31,928	32,603
From 1st April, 1847, to 31st March, 1848 . .	22,768	7,394	30,162

" Of this sum 16,811*l.* was received in the last six months, chiefly in crowns, " half-crowns, shillings, and sixpenny coins.

" It will be observed that a considerable diminution occurred in the sale of " Commissariat bills during the last two years, compared with the preceding. " These bills being usually purchased by merchants to remit in payment for " articles imported for the use of the colony, and assuming that the consump- " tion has not decreased, (prices at the same time being by no means lower,) it " might be inferred that the importations have been met in great part by " increased exports of produce raised in these islands, which, if correct, is a " most gratifying result. The rate of exchange on bills, I imagine cannot have " operated in reducing the demand, a premium having been received in 1845-6 " of half per cent. and for a long time past they have been sold at par, the rate " being regulated in great measure by the exchange at New York.

" The Commissariat chest is at present well supplied, and I am led to be- " lieve that there is a considerable amount of specie in the hands of individuals, " and that altogether the circulating medium of the colony is amply sufficient " for every purpose, and in a very satisfactory state.

(Signed) " THOS. RAYNER, A.C.G."

" Commissariat Bermuda,
" Hamilton, April 12, 1848."

The import trade of the colony has been increasing during the last two years, as will be observed by the table appended to this Report, neither have prices fallen, and therefore the diminished sale of Commissariat bills during that period, must be partly ascribed to the increasing amount of exports. But I believe, there has been some amount of West India bank paper thrown into the colony during the last year or 15 months, which will also serve to account for this circumstance.

It will be seen by Mr. Rayner's instructive memorandum, that the British silver coin remains in the colony, which is an economy to the Imperial Treasury, and a convenience to the community. We have never had any banking institution here, and in the condition of this colony, I believe that the best bank for the people, is their own frugality, their industry, the best capital, and the maintenance of their well established honesty, the safest source of credit.

Trusting that this statement of the steady progress of Bermuda, will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

Encl. in No. 6.

Enclosure in No. 6.

AN ACCOUNT of the REVENUE of BERMUDA under its several Heads for the Years 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Year.	Received under Imperial Acts.	Rum, 1s. per gallon.	Brandy, Gin, Whiskey, and Shrub, 1s. 6d. per gallon.	Wine, 1s. per gallon	Malt Liquor, 15s per hhd., 1s. per dozen bottles.	Cigars, 8s. per 1000	Personal Property Sold at Auction, 2½ per cent.	Light Duty, 4d. per ton.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1845	6,352 4 8	1,220 9 2	728 17 6	165 18 1	310 7 9	55 17 4	286 6 6	. .
1846	5,500 13 11	1,550 16 6	1,026 17 3	316 19 5	506 4 0	52 8 0	234 3 5	283 14 8
1847	4,772 14 7	1,907 13 4	1,098 19 7	343 6 0	520 17 6	52 12 2	299 1 10	533 19 0

Year.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Old 2¼ Duty on Spirits and Wine, and Malt Liquors.	All other Articles Imported, except specifically Taxed.	Incidental.	Total Revenue.	Parliamentary Grant.	Total Resource from Blue Book.	Total Expenditure.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1845	29 10 0	406 7 1	2,645 10 8	65 10 11	12,266 19 8	4,049 13 4	18,771 5 3	16,819 5 0
1846	32 7 2	418 14 2	1,472 15 2	270 10 3	11,666 3 6	4,049 13 4	18,215 16 1	17,135 17 0
1847	24 15 6	402 7 7	1,701 10 8	106 0 7	11,763 18 4	4,049 13 4	18,239 13 9	18,189 9 0

*** The duties on spirits, wine, and malt liquors during the last three years have amounted to about one-third of the whole taxation of the colony; and it is noticeable that the consumption of rum has increased largely with the heavily increased duty on malt liquors and wines.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS into and from the BERMUDAS, for the Years ending respectively 5th January, 1847, and 5th January, 1848.

Imports, value in Sterling.

	1847	1848
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
From Great Britain . .	52,079 2 9	40,581 0 8
,, North America . .	3,199 1 0	2,739 13 0
,, British West Indies	3,881 8 4	9,082 6 8
,, United States . .	65,762 19 2	77,235 12 10
,, Foreign States . .	3,309 7 2	9,354 3 7
Total . . .	134,189 18 5	138,992 16 9

Exports, value in Sterling.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
To Great Britain . . .	2,943 0 4	7,964 6 2
,, North America . .	207 6 2	258 14 4
,, British West Indies .	7,024 18 9	7,073 9 10
,, United States . . .	5,107 15 2	3,146 8 8
,, Foreign States . . .	3,309 13 10	1,762 4 8
Total . . .	18,592 14 3	20,205 3 8

NUMBER of VESSELS that have entered Inwards and Outwards, during the same Period.

	5th January, 1847.						5th January, 1848.					
	Inwards.			Outwards.			Inwards.			Outwards.		
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
United Kingdom . . .	23	6,587	273	3	921	62	19	4,449	201	5	681	39
British West Indies . .	23	1,270	124	46	4,472	311	41	2,439	229	57	4,501	323
British North America .	11	654	51	17	3,335	154	16	1,505	91	20	2,307	131
Foreign Europe:												
Foreign Vessels . . .	1	215	9	1	200	11	1	274	10	..	..	..
United States:												
British Vessels . . .	34	2,926	210	52	4,620	324	37	2,856	223	57	6,824	409
Foreign Vessels . . .	44	6,498	263	32	4,636	197	37	5,793	248	27	4,051	177
Foreign West Indies:												
British Vessels . . .	31	1,609	154	12	996	71	31	1,679	160	19	1,516	116
Foreign Vessels . . .	1	203	11	3	443	18	3	404	18	4	520	25
Total	168	19,962	1,095	166	19,625	1,148	185	19,399	1,180	189	20,400	1,220

Imports and Exports into and from the Bermudas, &c.—*continued.*

NUMBER of VESSELS registered in the same Period.

	5th January, 1847.		5th January, 1848.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
New Vessels . . .	3	198	6	170
Registered de novo . .	5	307	6	351
Total . .	8	505	12	521

STAPLE PRODUCTIONS.

5th January, 1847.	£.	s.	d.	5th January, 1848.	£.	s.	d.
Arrow-Root	4,115	16	5	Arrow-Root	6,760	9	5
Boats	109	0	0	Boats	30	0	0
Cedar Timber	209	10	0	Cedar Timber . . .	280	14	11
Onions (397,676 lbs.) .	1,637	8	8	Onions (1,201,280 lbs.) .	2,726	15	0
Palmetto Plait	32	16	0	Palmetto Plait	35	14	0
Potatoes (6,672 bushels) .	1,845	4	0	Potatoes (10,310 bushels).	2,428	1	6
Total . . .	7,949	15	1	Total . . .	12,281	14	10

VESSELS SOLD and TRANSFERRED from the Colony.

5th January, 1847.			5th January, 1848.		
No.	Tons.	Value.	No.	Tons.	Value.
		£.			£.
2	138	1800	4	130	1580

NUMBER of VESSELS belonging to the Colony, together with the Amount of Tonnage and Number of Mariners.

5th January, 1847.			5th January, 1848.		
No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
53	3551	314	52	3372	301

Custom House, Hamilton, Bermuda,
March 8, 1848.

(No. 186.) No. 7. No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor ELLIOT.

SIR, Downing-street, June 2, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 20th of April last, accompanying the annual "Blue Book for Bermuda," for the year 1847.

I have perused with much satisfaction, the very copious and clear report which you have made on the general state of the colony, under your Government.

I have, &c.,

Governor Elliot, &c. &c.

(Signed) GREY.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

No. 8.

(No. 36.) No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MATHEW to Earl GREY.

Government House, Nassau, April 29, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received May* 23, 1848.)

With a map.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the "Blue Book" of the Bahamas for the year 1847, and to enclose my accompanying report on the state of the colony.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the STATE of the COLONY of the BAHAMAS, on the 1st January, 1848.

THE Bahamas or Lucayos extend from the Grand Bahama or Matanilla Cays in 27° 31′ north latitude, and 79° 5′ west longitude, to the Mouchoir Carré Bank, in 21° north latitude, and 70° 32′ west longitude, a distance of upwards of 600 miles.

Generally speaking, they present a flat appearance, and are the work of the coral insect. They are formed of calcareous rock, which, by retaining the moisture, is found well adapted to the growth of the orange and of other fruits suited to the climate.

In the most southerly islands are salt ponds of great value, the cultivation of which is increasing, but is yet capable of great improvement.

New Providence, although a small island of 20 miles in length and about 7 in breadth, from north to south, contains the chief town, Nassau, with a population, at the Census taken in 1845, of 8400 inhabitants, which is supposed to have increased since that time.

The most important of the other islands are *The Turks Islands* (producing the largest quantity of salt), which contain only eight square miles, with a population of 2520.

Harbour Island, containing eight square miles, with a population of 1700 persons, employed in ship-building and wrecking, and carrying on some trade with the United States.

Abaco, possessing an area of 225 square miles and 1900 inhabitants, who are also ship-builders and wreckers, and occupy four settlements.

Eleuthera, the principal fruit-growing island, has 100 square miles, with a population of 3400. The chief settlements are at Governor's Harbour, The Cove, Rock Sound, and The Current.

Heneagua, containing 576 square miles, with a large salt pond and several prairies, has but 172 inhabitants; and

Mayaguara, with 81 square miles, only 9 inhabitants.

These two last-named islands, which are situated to the eastward or windward part of the colony, are virtually unsettled and almost unexplored. From the various reports made, and (with respect to Mayaguara, from some personal knowledge,) I have reason to believe they exceed in fertility all the other islands of the Bahamas, and that, at no distant period, they may be made to contribute materially to the wealth and importance of the colony.

MAP OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

COMPILED BY

John Arrowsmith.

ISLAND OF NEW PROVIDENCE

Lat.e of Light 25°. 5'. 37".N.

Note. The Entrance at Lyford Cay has grown up since 1830 when Body Head point at H.W. lay now 10 ft high & covered with bushes.

Light of Light 77°.22'.30"W.

Tides meet here.

Cochrane Anchorage

English Miles.

ELEUTHERA ISL.D (The Principal Fruit-growing Isd)

Guanahani or S.t SALVADOR OR CAT I.

EXUMA SOUND

GRT EXUMA

LONG ISLAND

CROOKED ISLD PASSAGE

ACKLIN I.

Mayaguara or MARICUANA I.

Plana or French Cays

Samana or Atwood Cay

CAICOS ISLANDS

MOUCHOIR BANK

Heneagua or GRT INAGUA

RUM CAY

WATLING I.

NASSAU

GREAT BAHAMA BANK

LITTLE BAHAMA BANK

OLD BAHAMA BANK

CAICOS BANK

MOUCHOIR PASSAGE

TURK PASSAGE

CROOKED ISLD PASSAGE

NICHOLAS CHANL

SANTAREN CHANL

N.W. PROVIDENCE CHANL

N.E. PROVIDENCE CHANL

GULF OF FLORIDA

EAST FLORIDA

BERRY Is

HOG ISLAND

ATHOL

LONG

CENTRAL EASTERN DISTRICT

WESTERN DISTRICT

SOUTH WEST BAY

WEST BAY

DE LA PORT B.

NASSAU

Cay Largos

Cay Lobos

Cay Verde

Holguin

Nipe

Baracoa

Cienfuegos

Port Jagua

Port Casilda

Trinidad

Pt.a Principe

Pt.o Banes

Pt.o Viejo

Pt.a Maisi

Pt.a Guarabacoa

Pt.a Lucrecia

Pt.a Manglarito

Pt.a Mulas

Pt.a Gorda

Pt.a Canasi

Pt.a Sama

Pt.a Barti

Pt.a Gaur

St. Salvador, called also Guanahani or Cat Island, is celebrated as the first discovery of American land, by Columbus, on the 12th October, 1492. A mark, on a prominent rock overhanging the bay, is asserted to have been the spot where the Cross was first planted.

There are now two settlements, containing 348 males and 326 females.

Andros Island furnishes the best cedar of the Bahamas, and has a population of 401 males and 358 females, who are nearly all "coloured."

Great Bahama contains 454 males and 356 females, chiefly employed in raising Indian corn and other agricultural pursuits.

Ragged Island has 166 males, 147 females, and exports large quantities of salt to the United States.

Rum Cay has a population of 299 males and 261 females, engaged in agriculture and in raising stock, as well as in salt raking.

Exuma 888 males, 794 females, engaged in agriculture, cotton growing, and salt raking.

Long Island 660 males, 626 females, engaged in salt raking, sponge and conch fishing, and turtling.

Crooked Island and Long Cay 483 males, 452 females, engaged in salt raking.

Caicos. This group has a population of 303 males and 254 females, chiefly engaged in rearing stock and produce for the Turks Islands market.

The Berry Islands, of which the chief is "Stirrup's Cay," has a population of 96 males, employed in wrecking, and 65 females. In Appendix A will be found a return of the acres in cultivation, and ungranted.

The entire population of the Bahamas in 1845 amounted to 26,500, since which it may be presumed to have increased to near 30,000. Of this population every one is engaged in some professional, agricultural, or commercial pursuit. The means of living are within the reach of all, and a very moderate amount of labour suffices to command the necessaries of life.

There is no poor rate levied in the islands. An annual sum is voted for the support of the poor, not exceeding the sum of 1300*l.*, from which the New Providence Asylum, which is a hospital as well as a poor-house, is entirely maintained. The only permanent recipients of relief are such as from age or infirmities are unable to work.

Climate.

The climate of the Bahamas is fine, and well suited to European constitutions, with moderate care. The three autumn months are occasionally visited with fevers of a similar nature to the fevers of the Ionian Islands and Cyprus. From the 1st of November to the 1st of May it is impossible to exceed the beauty and salubrity of the climate.

A table for the past year will be found in the Appendix (A).

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue—Debt.

The first item to the debit of this account, being the public debt of the colony, I purpose, in the first instance, briefly to refer to its origin.

The public debt of the Bahamas amounted, on the 31st December, 1847, to 28,333*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* This debt consists of loans raised by the Treasurer, under the authority of various Acts of Assembly, in order to meet the deficiency in the revenue in several former years, and is secured by Treasury Bills, in the possession of 29 fundholders, nearly all of whom reside in the colony, or are connected with it. The largest amount held by any one person is 6000*l.*; the next 5000*l.* There are also bills for 4000*l.*, 2500*l.*, and 2100*l.*; the remainder is distributed in amounts varying from 150*l.* to 800*l.*

The interest is payable quarterly, at five per cent., on all excepting a sum of 650*l.*, borrowed at six per cent., which is now ordered to be paid off.

The stock has never been at a discount.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Bahamas for the year 1847 consisted of—

BAHAMAS.

	£.	s.	d.
Import duties, including—			
Receipts from Her Majesty's Customs . .	18,103	14	11
Export duties, tonnage and fees . . .	5,026	7	3
Auction tax	1,350	10	0
Liquor license tax, assessed taxes, and market rates	1,120	2	4
Quit-rents under the Act of Assembly . .	2,440	16	5
Fees in Secretary's Office	530	1	0
Other sources of revenue	978	2	4
Total gross	£29,549	14	3
Deduct drawbacks and commissions of Deputy Receivers at out-ports	428	0	3
Total net Revenue for 1847 .	£29,121	14	0

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the same period, was—	£.	s.	d.
The Civil Department	8,071	12	7
Ecclesiastical Department	2,969	12	0
Judicial Department . . , . .	5,354	17	3
Public Works , ...	5,565	19	11
Maintenance of Poor	1,300	0	0
Interest of Public Debt	1,430	6	8
Sundry	8	13	4
Total Expenditure . . .	£24,701	1	9
Surplus of Revenue over Expenditure for 1847 .	4,420	12	3

This surplus, therefore, is available either for general purposes, or for the paying off part of the permanent debt of 28,333*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

As, however, this debt, being less than one year's income, is not, at this time, found to press heavily on the resources of the colony, and as large grants of money will be required during the ensuing year for necessary purposes specified in the sections of this Report which treat of "Public Works" and "Gaols and Prisons," it is not deemed expedient, in the peculiar position of the colony with regard to a former component and remunerating part, to pay off a larger sum than 1000*l.* (including the portion at 6 per cent.) of the debt, and to reserve the surplus for purposes of improvement, which must eventually produce more advantageous results, either in a financial or moral point of view, than could be obtained by merely lessening the annual payments by an unsought reduction of the principal due.

It may be proper to state, that this is the first instance for many years of such an available surplus. In the years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1843, the expenditure always exceeded the income. In the years 1844, 1845, and 1846, there was a surplus on each year, amounting in the three years to 5000*l.*, which was expended in redeeming an issue of Treasury notes for small sums, which appear to have been put in circulation in 1841, but which are now paid off with the exception of a trifling amount of 14*l.*, now ordered to be paid.

Comparative Yearly Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

The returns now forwarded show—			
A gross revenue collected in 1847 of . .	£29,549	14	3
Against the gross revenue of 1846, of . .	26,182	18	11
Leaving a balance in favour of 1847, of . .	£ 3,366	15	4

This increase arises from the improvement in certain items of revenue amounting to 6505*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, against a decrease in others of 3138*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

In accounting for this increase, it is right to premise that a considerable portion consists in the sum of 2440*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, being the commutation of quit-rents paid into the Treasury in aid of the revenue.

Under the Colonial Act of Assembly 9 Vic., c. 10, the quit-rents payable to the Crown are commuted for a fixed sum to be paid to the Treasury; and an annual revenue of 300*l.* to be expended within the colony, is granted to the Crown in lieu thereof. As the terms of commutation were very favourable, almost all the holders of land, by that tenure, availed themselves of the provisions of the Act, and the commutation has, for the most part, been paid in 1847. The probable amount of revenue to be derived from this source in future will therefore be very trifling.

There is, however, exclusive of this temporary source of revenue, an increase in the year of 1125*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, which is caused by a small augmentation of each of the several items of import, export, and tonnage duty.

The customs' duties, which form a part of the imports, show an increase of 783*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

In the colonial import duties there is a decrease of 215*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* on the articles of wheat, meal flour, and bread; of 436*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* on corn and pulse, and 248*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* on salt meat. The decrease of imports of these articles is to be attributed to the high price of provisions in the American market, caused by the dearth in Europe.

These high prices have induced many of the inhabitants of the Bahamas to turn their attention to the better cultivation of the soil, in the production of Indian corn and other articles of food, thereby diminishing the imports. That this decrease is not owing to diminution of the resources of the colony, may be inferred from the fact of the general increase of the revenue, and especially of those articles which may be deemed luxuries, such as that on wine, of 374*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*; ale and porter 101*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; tea 44*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*; soap 98*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*; and of 123*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* on cattle and live stock. There has been a decrease of 376*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* on brandy; of 430*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* on turtle; and of 229*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* on *ad valorem* duties. With respect to the turtle, which was imported only for the purpose of transmission in a prepared state to Europe, a Colonial Act, passed on the 20th February, 1847, took off, on exportation, all duty. The *ad valorem* duties were chiefly derived from English manufacturers. Owing to the great and general depression of trade in England, the transactions of the English mercantile houses here have been very limited, and the duties consequently lessened.

The export duties show an increase of 287*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*. which may be attributed partly to the increase of exportation, and partly to the Revenue Act of 25th September, 1846, which, though it reduces considerably the duty payable on salt, imposes a duty on fruit and other articles which were previously free.

The expenditure for the year 1847 amounts to .	£24,701 1 9
That for 1846 to	22,745 7 9
Excess in 1847	£1,955 14 0

There is an apparent decrease of 940*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* in the Civil department, the expenditure for which in 1847 appears to have been 8071*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, while the same department in 1846 is placed at 9011*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* But this arises from the circumstance of certain payments, which should have been placed to account of "Miscellaneous Services," having been very erroneously inserted under this head in making up the Blue Book for 1846.

A slight increase of expenditure in the Judicial department is caused by the establishment of a Court of Bankruptcy.

Under the head of "Disbursements on account of Miscellaneous Civil Services," the returns show an increase of 2793*l.* 12*s.*

This increase is caused by several items of expenditure of an unusual nature; such as 500*l.* granted to the Irish Relief Fund; extensive repairs to Government House and to the public buildings; and the erection of a market-house.

By examining the preceding comparative statement of Revenue and Expenditure, and by referring to the return of Imports and Exports, in pages 147 to 157 of the Blue Book, it will be seen that the colony has, during the past year, continued steadily to improve in revenue and trade, notwithstanding the effect of the depression of commercial affairs in England and other countries.

BAHAMAS.

Local Revenues.

Under this head, at page 40, will be found the abstract of the accounts of the Receiver-General of Crown dues for the year 1846.

Public Works.

The public buildings have undergone extensive repairs during the past year.

The works most imperatively required are, the improvement and deepening of the harbour at Nassau and Harbour Island; the erection of lighthouses at Castle Island and Grand Cay, Turks Island; and the building of a new prison, on on improved plan, at Nassau.

The former four of these works are, I fear, beyond the financial resources of the Bahamas, but their effect would be of general benefit to the commerce of all countries, and especially of Great Britain.

Military Expenditure.

With the exception of the payment of the militia staff, and of the rent of barracks for a detachment at Turks Island, this colony incurs no military military expenditure.

Militia.

The militia corps in New Providence are,—two companies of artillery, six companies of light infantry, and one of rifles, who are well armed and equipped, and have reached an unusual degree of discipline.

In the Turks Islands are three well-accoutred companies.

In several of the out islands an enrolment of militia has taken place, but owing to the scattered position of the islands, and the difficulty of assembling the men, who are principally seafarers, but little has been done in training and arming them.

Legislation.

The Legislature assembled on the 9th of December, 1846, and remained in session until the 25th March, 1847. During this period they passed 35 Acts, amongst which may be noted:—

A more liberal and comprehensive Education Act.
An Act to improve the practice and lessen the expense of the Courts of Chancery and Ordinary.
An Act establishing a Fire Brigade.
An Act commuting the Fees received by the Governor, Colonial, and Private Secretary.
An Act establishing an Agricultural Society.
An Act establishing a Library and Museum at Nassau.

Civil Establishment.

The Civil establishment comprises the Civil, Medical, and Ecclesiastical departments.

The Civil department consists of the Governor, whose salary is 2000*l.* per annum, of which 1200*l.* is paid by the British Treasury, and of the following officers, who are paid by the colony:—

	£.	s.	d.
The Colonial Secretary	1042	14	2
The Governor's Private Secretary	200	0	0
The Speaker and Officers of the House of Assembly	367	1	8
The Receiver-General and Treasurer	850	0	0
The deputy Receiver-General	250	0	0
Seven Tide-waiters	380	0	0
Thirteen Preventive officers (with 4 per cent. on all monies collected)	1012	18	4
The Surveyor-General	260	8	4
The Postmaster			

	£.	s.	d.
Officers' New Providence Asylum	309	11	8
Harbour Master	150	0	0
Health Officer	105	0	0
Civil Engineer	100	0	0
Clerk Board of Works	62	10	0
Cashier Public Bank	260	8	4
Militia Staff	49	0	0
Light-house Keeper at Nassau	90	0	0
Light-house Keepers at other stations (paid by British Treasury)	318	0	0
Normal Master and Inspector of Schools	200	0	0
Secretary to Board of Education	50	0	0

The above, with some smaller appointments, form the Civil department, the expense of which, with contingencies for the year 1847, was . . . . . £. 9114 s. 17 d. 11

	£.	s.	d.
Of which was paid by the British Treasury	1518	0	0
By the Colonial ditto	7596	17	11

The Customs department, stationed at the Bahamas, consists of:—

	£.	s.	d.
The Collector, at	700	0	0
Landing Surveyor	350	0	0
Searcher	250	0	0
Clerk and Warehouse-keeper	200	0	0
Sub-Collector at Turks Islands	300	0	0
Warehouse-keeper at ditto	200	0	0
Total	£ 2000	0	0

From the British Treasury, of the above is paid the sum of 830*l.* The balance, amounting to 1170*l.*, is retained by the Collector of Customs, before paying over the Imperial duties received, to the Colonial Treasurer.

The anomaly of the double Customs establishment, the officers of the one being named by the Crown, and the other by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs, must be apparent.

Its inconvenience to trade is very much felt.

Judicial Department.

The judicial department consists of the Governor, who is Chancellor and Vice-Admiral, both honorary distinctions.

Of the Chief Justice, who receives a British salary of 500*l.*, and a colonial salary of 260*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; of two Assistant Justices receiving British salaries of 200*l.*, and colonial salaries of 182*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; of a Clerk of the Crown at 145*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; an Attorney-General at a home salary of 150*l.*, and a colonial salary of 234*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; a Provost-Marshal receiving a home salary of 150*l.*, and a colonial salary of 234*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, (making, with fees, &c., a total of 545*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*); and of some minor appointments.

The Police Magistrate receives the reduced salary of 300*l.*, to be raised to 400*l.*, on the decease of the late and superannuated magistrate of police.

The judicial establishment at Turks Islands consists of—

	£.	s.	d.
A Judge, at	310	8	4
A Provost-Marshal	180	0	0
A Police Magistrate and Clerk of the Crown	177	0	0

There are four Stipendiary Magistrates, who take in regular turn annually an extensive district.

The whole expense of the Judicial establishment in 1847 was . . . . . £. 8504 s. 17 d. 3

	£.	s.	d.
Of which the British Treasury paid	3150	0	0
And the Colony	5354	17	3

BAHAMAS.

Ecclesiastical Department.

The Ecclesiastical department in the Bahamas consists of an archdeacon, who receives a salary of 1000*l.* from the British Treasury. Four rectors of parishes, who receive from 270*l.* to 370*l.*. Three Church missionaries, who receive 300*l.* (150*l.* from the colony, and 150*l.* from the Society for the propagation of the Gospel). Two stipendiary curates at 150*l.*, and one at 120*l.*; besides lay readers, &c.

There is also in Nassau an endowed Presbyterian church, the minister receiving the same colonial salary as the rector of a parish.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The whole expense of this department for 1847 was	4559	12	0
Of which, from the Colony	2969	12	0
„ British Treasury . . .	1140	0	0
„ Society for the propagation of the Gospel	450	0	0

There are in the colony four Wesleyan and three Baptist Missionaries (besides probationers and lay readers), who are supported by the contributions of their congregations.

Pensions.

The amount paid in pensions to retired or reduced public officers amounts to 484*l.*

The widow and orphans' fund, established in 1844, now amounts to 1123*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* No pension has become chargeable upon it.

Education.

The Board of Education, under the Colonial Act of 10th Vic. cap. 1, consists of the Governor and a committee of four members of the Executive Council.

The first report of the Board will be found in the Appendix (C).

In connexion with this subject may be mentioned the establishment of a museum and library at Nassau, one department of which is specially intended for the benefit of the industrial classes.

The first report of the trustees is also annexed (Appendix D).

Agriculture.

It is difficult to obtain with accuracy the number of acres under cultivation in the Bahamas. There is no doubt but this has much increased in the last two years.

The return of the Surveyor-General of the number of acres, fit for cultivation, has already been referred to (Appendix B).

The gambling life of a wrecker has much militated against agricultural pursuits, and against the real advancement of these islands, and against the comfort and interests of the inhabitants; but the handsome returns of late obtained for fruit will, it is hoped, strengthen the endeavours made to increase and diffuse agricultural pursuits and knowledge.

In order to encourage the cultivation of the soil by the distribution of premiums, and with the view of spreading information, and ensuring to the poorer classes a continued supply of seeds and plants, an Agricultural Society has been established in Nassau, and has been incorporated by Act of Assembly.

Gaols and Prisons.

The last section of the Blue Book contains an account of the number of prisoners committed during the year, and a plan of Nassau gaol.

The number for the year 1847 was 439, of whom a very large proportion were unable to read and write.

The General Court convictions do not exceed 30; the remainder consist of persons sentenced to short terms of imprisonment by the magistrates for breaches of the peace, assaults, and petty larcenies.

The subjoined report from the Gaol Board (Appendix E) states fully the method of prison discipline now pursued, and suggests the introduction of a new and more enlightened system.

It is to be regretted that, on account of the great outlay required in building

to carry this plan into effect, it has only as yet been partially adopted for the present year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Appendix A.

Appendix A.

	Thermometer's Average.	Barometer's Average.	Prevailing Wind.	Prevailing Weather.	Rain, in inches and 100ths.
Jan. .	74	29·90	N.E. & N.W.	Clear and fine	5·
Feb. .	73	30·06	N.E. & N.W.	Ditto	4·50
March	73	30·20	N.E.	Squally, fine	2·75
April .	76	30·07	N.E. & S.E.	Clear and fine	3·20
May .	80	30·00	S.E. & N.E.	Clear, cloudy	3·49
June .	82	30·94	S.E.	Fine with frequent showers	4·12
July .	85	30·00	S.E.	Ditto ditto . . .	4·34
Aug. .	86	30·07	S.E.	Ditto ditto . . .	3·91
Sept. .	83	29·62	S.E. & N.E.	Ditto ditto . . .	5·40
Oct. .	81	30·06	N.E.	Clear, fine	2·73
Nov. .	77	30·09	N.E.	Ditto	1·74
Dec. .	73	30·00	N.E. & N.W.	Ditto	0·82

Appendix B.

Appendix B.

Return of Crown or Waste Land in the Bahamas, 1847.

Islands.	Estimated Amount of Water.	Estimated as Barren and unfit for Cultivation.	Remaining of the Escheats that have been Cleared.	Never under Grant, and Uncleared.	Total Amount of Waste Land in each Island of the Colony.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Exuma . .	2,848	3,000	1,394	4,654	11,896	* The Andros Islands have not been surveyed; the interior. for the most part, is composed of extensive salt marshes and fresh water swamps, in which are islands valuable for their timber. Only the sea-bord is habitable during the summer months, owing to the myriads of mosquitoes and other insects that infost the low ground. † Heneagua has not been surveyed, and only a few acres have been granted in it. It is valuable for its extensive salt pond and for its pasturage, the interior being chiefly prairie land. ‡ Mayaguana also has not been surveyed, the very limited supply of fresh water hitherto deterring settlers. The land is "virgin," and of a good quality.
Long Island .	6,085	9,600	5,600	5,667	26,952	
New Providence	6,660	9,000	..	9,634	25,294	
Crooked Island	8,000	17,000	22,200	32,883	80,083	
Harbour Island	..	..	..	156	156	
Berry Island .	300	1,000	..	1,488	2,788	
Abaco . . .	16,000	41,000	13,426	64,650	135,082	
Andros Islands	..	..	7,593	..	1,046,803*	
Grand Bahama	19,400	40,000	1,708	63,483	124,591	
Eleuthera . .	5,000	5,000	8,430	8,556	26,986	
St. Salvador .	6,000	4,000	16,078	2,707	28,785	
Rum Cay . .	3,300	1,000	..	3,359	7,659	
Watling's Island	9,000	2,500	3,345	7,365	22,210	
Heneagua . .	..	..	7,180	..	366,540†	
Mayaguana .	..	..	..	..	51,840‡	
Caicos Island .	8,000	19,000	10,648	18,257	55,905	
Turks Island .	..	..	..	..	5,060	
Ragged Island .	300	300	..	788	1,388	
Cay Sal . .	..	..	..	..	..	
Anguilla . .	..	..	..	..	..	

The general wild vegetation of the Bahamas is a close growth of trees, comprising the madeira, horse-flesh, mahogany, mastic, lignum vitæ, pigeon, alum, dye woods, &c, with an entangled underbrush. In the return of surveys from the several islands, two-thirds of the extent is estimated as fit for cultivation. The greater portion of the land at the disposal of the Crown is such as was rejected under the quit-rent tenure, and land that was escheated in 1832 for non-payment of the quit-rents, the grantees, or owners, refusing to pay the arrears due, not conceiving the land of sufficient value, having exhausted it by long cultivation. J. J. Burnside, Surveyor-General.

Appendix C.

Appendix C.

Report of the Board of Education, appointed under the Act "to establish a system of popular Education and Training" in the Bahama Islands, for the year 1847.

The Board of Education, appointed under the Act "to establish a system of popular Education and Training," for the first time present this their Report to the Bahama Legisla-

BAHAMAS.

ture. They will endeavour to set forth the precise circumstances under which they took charge of the schools appertaining to them, and then proceed to show briefly what they have been enabled to accomplish up to the present time.

The preceding Education Board ceased to exist on the 25th of June last, when the present Board commenced the exercise of its functions. At that time 23 public schools were established throughout the colony. The salaries of the teachers varied extremely, as will appear from the following abstract:—

		£.	s.	d.	
1	teacher at	125	0	0	per annum.
2	,,	72	16	0	,,
2	,,	35	0	0	,,
1	,,	10	0	0	,,
1	,,	78	2	6	,,
4	,,	50	0	0	,,
6	,,	34	0	0	,,
5	,,	26	0	0	,,

The number of scholars in attendance at the schools amounted to 1590.

Two schools have been re-established by the Board; the one at Fox Hill, in this island, the other at Little Guano Cay, Abaco. There are consequently, 25 schools now in operation under their immediate control and management.

Several alterations in the teachers' salaries have taken place, as the existing scale will show:—

		£.	s.	d.	
1	teacher at	125	0	0	per annum.
1	,,	78	2	6	,,
2	,,	70	0	0	,,
4	,,	50	0	0	,,
2	,,	35	0	0	,,
7	,,	34	0	0	,,
1	,,	30	0	0	,,
1	,,	27	0	0	,,
5	,,	26	0	0	,,
1	,,	10	0	0	,,
1	assistant ditto	10	0	0	,,

The children who attend the schools, as collected from the last returns, are 1785 in number, exhibiting an increase of 195.

The necessity of having their own school-houses has continually and forcibly impressed itself upon the Board. Out of those in use at present, five only are their property, three are rented by them, six belong to, and the remaining eleven are furnished by, the inhabitants of the respective districts. It would be especially desirable to carry out in these islands the plan adopted at the present day in the mother country, of building the teacher's residence and the school-house together.

The advantages of this system would, they humbly conceive, repay the consequent additional cost. The want of means, however, prevents their being able to aid in the erection, much less themselves erect either one edifice or the other.

An unwillingness in general exists among the inhabitants of the out islands to contribute to the building of any school-house, The plea of poverty is always urged in extenuation. The true reason perhaps lies in the circumstance of the school-houses on this island, the seat of Government, being paid for out of the public funds. To this, however, Fox Hill school, the site of which was presented by the Hon. Robert Sandilands, forms an exception. The people in the island districts feel how much better able the wealthy classes of the metropolis are to defray the expense of school buildings, or contribute towards them, than themselves, and think, therefore, if these are not required to do so they should not be.

The Board have sought information on the actual cost of suitable school-houses, and they find that a sum of at least 1200*l.* would be required to erect all that are needed—20 in number.

They have essayed to carry out the views of the Legislature, embodied in the last Education Act, with reference to the formation in some of the schools of classes who should receive instruction in the mechanical arts or agriculture. For this purpose, persons competent to teach navigation, tailoring, and shoemaking, have been employed at the boys' central school. A piece of ground, adjoining the boys' school in the eastern district of this island, was granted by the Executive to the Board for agricultural purposes. An agricultural class was consequently formed in connexion with the school, and a teacher engaged. The Board find, however, that the industrial departments entail very great expense, and trench largely on the funds at their disposal. No provision whatever to meet this expenditure was made in the legislative enactment. The Board will therefore be under the painful necessity of abolishing these departments unless the Legislature liberally come to their aid. In order the better to show the precise expense hitherto incurred in teaching the industrial classes, they subjoin the cost of each department between the 25th of June and 24th December.

	Teacher's Salary.	Contingencies.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Navigation . .	20 0 0	0 16 8	20 16 8
Tailoring . .	7 10 0	8 2 3¼	15 12 3¼
Shoemaking . .	8 2 6	5 13 7¼	13 16 1¼
Agriculture . .	20 0 0	18 16 8¾	38 16 8¾
			£89 1 9¼

They have already been obliged, on account of the want of means, to dispense with the services of the teacher in the nautical and agricultural departments, which they have placed consequently under the immediate superintendence of the normal schoolmaster. The articles manufactured by the tailoring and shoemaking classes have not yet been sold. The proceeds of the sale, when received, will, of course, be placed to the credit of those departments.

They have endeavoured to increase their limited funds by enforcing the payment of the school fee in every way possible. Their efforts in this respect have not been quite fruitless, for the contributions received in the September quarter amounted to 12*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d*; and in December, as far as has yet been ascertained, to 14*l.* 10*s.* 7½*d.* The payment of the school fee must ever be regarded as essential to the proper appreciation of the benefits of education. The amount is small, and within the ability of almost the poorest. Parents who can afford, and yet will not defray the expense of their children's education, merit not their country's help. In some districts the poor contribute largely, while in others the comparatively rich spend nothing.

The materials of the old school-building at Rum Cay have been sold by the Board's direction, and realized 26*l.* 5*s.*

They have earnestly tried to keep all the schools well supplied with suitable books and stationery. But in doing this, and providing for other contingencies to no less than 25 schools, they have been necessarily obliged to exceed the amount originally estimated for the half year. They have, in consequence of the sum of 1150*l.* granted in the 19th section of the last Education Act for the general purposes of that Act being only a specific and not an annual grant, prepared an estimate of the probable expenditure for the coming year, which will be laid before the Legislature.

The value and necessity of school libraries so pressed itself on the notice of the last Board, that they brought the subject prominently before the Legislature, and that body made a liberal grant of 40*l.* annually in furtherance of the object. These just and enlightened views are in the process of accomplishment. A number of useful works, carefully selected, have been ordered from Great Britain, which, when they arrive, will form the nucleus of an excellent library at the boys' central school.

No system of popular education can be regarded as complete without an institution for training teachers. The knowledge of this drew forth some very forcible observations, in reference to the subject from the last Board, which happily resulted in a liberal provision being made by the Legislature for the purpose. The art of teaching is no longer deemed, in civilized countries, the fit employment of such as cannot earn a livelihood by any other means. The trainer of the infant mind, and the guide of youth is beginning to be viewed in quite a different light to what he was, not many years ago. A wide-spread conviction is gaining ground, that it is as absolutely necessary to learn teaching, or the didactic art, as any other. The possession of extensive acquirements only, without the capability of communicating knowledge agreeably and effectively, is not thought sufficient at the present day. It is being universally admitted, that a long and careful preparation is necessary to fit a candidate for the teacher's office. So deeply is this conviction felt in Germany, that even preparatory seminaries for the training institutions have been established, at which the candidates must pass a rigid examination before they are permitted to enter the training school, and, if found incompetent, sent away.

The Board at their first meeting, readily and gladly availed themselves of the provisions made by the Legislature for a normal schoolmaster. The task of obtaining one was most kindly undertaken by his Excellency the Governor, then on the eve of his departure for England. Mr. Webb, warmly recommended to his Excellency by Mr. Dunn, the Secretary of the British and Foreign School Society, was ultimately engaged, and arrived at Nassau in the early part of last month. The task of re-modelling the boys' central school, so as to make it a permanent and efficient normal school, is about to be commenced by him. The building is now undergoing the alterations necessary to assimilate it, as nearly as possible, to the British and Foreign Society's Central School, and adapt it to their mode of instruction.

In accordance with the sentiments which the Board entertain on the importance of training, they have resolved not to engage any teacher in their service, until he shall have attended the normal school, and, after passing a strict examination, received a certificate of competency from the master. Mr. Forbes, destined for the school at Grand Cay, and Mr. Higgs for the Spanish Wells School, are at present in training.

In addition to the advantages which the scholars receive from instruction at the public schools, they have now the opportunity by marked ability, and a persevering spirit of becoming pupil-teachers, and eventually masters of the elementary schools. Hitherto many able and zealous persons have been deterred from entering on the career of a teacher, in consequence of the small pecuniary emoluments incidental to the office. The social position of the schoolmaster is regulated in the popular mind, more by the standard of remuneration, than by the importance of his duties. In order to secure a better and more efficient class of teachers, it will be necessary to adopt a scale of reward likely to effect the object in view. This, the Board con-

BAHAMAS.

ceive, may be accomplished by promoting the meritorious teacher, in the first instance from his own school to another with a higher rate of salary; and ultimately by advancing him to a public office. An instance of a teacher so promoted has recently occurred. The Board cannot but think, were the principle generally carried out, it must have the effect of enlisting into their service, young, intelligent, and energetic men anxious to qualify themselves for the teacher's office.

Having now detailed their proceedings and sentiments, the Board proceed to record as well as they are able, the general state of education in these islands, and the particular condition of each school under their management. In their endeavour to furnish the most copious information on a subject of such vast interest, they have been effectively aided by Dr. Eve, H. Cartwright, and F. Bedingfeld, Esquires, stipendiary justices, whose services they cannot omit thankfully to acknowledge.

Out of a population of 24,765, only 1785 children, or 1 in 13, are under instruction in the public schools; of these 952 are boys, and 833 girls. The average number in daily attendance does not exceed 1142, or 1 in 21 of both sexes. The reason is obvious; it is the want of cordial co-operation on the part of parents. They detain their children from the school in order to employ them in some household or field-work; and, at times, to take care of their younger brothers and sisters. This occasions a very irregular attendance, and a proportionate backwardness in their education and intelligence.

The lateness of the hour at which the children come to school is another instance of this truly deplorable indifference on the parent's part, while it becomes a source of inconvenience and annoyance to the teacher, as well as injury to the scholar. The most urgent remonstrances have hitherto been of little avail in rooting out this evil and pernicious habit. It is, however, to be hoped that with the increasing general intelligence, it will be completely removed.

There are about 4000 children in the Bahamas fit to attend school, and not quite half are under instruction; 2215 are without any education, except what a few may receive at the Sunday-schools. The very scattered population of the districts offers most serious obstacles in this respect. Were the settlements not so far apart, and the inhabitants more concentrated, a much greater number might share in the present educational advantages. The Board trust to have their funds enlarged so as to extend in a corresponding degree, the benefits of sound instruction.

Boys and girls are taught together at all the schools, except at two; the boys' central school, and the girls' central school, Nassau. There are four infant schools; the rest are juvenile.

The school-fee, authorized by the Education Act, is thus regulated; "One penny per week for children above nine years of age; one halfpenny per week for children under nine years and above six; one farthing per week for all children under six years and above three; below three years of age, at infant-schools, free." In consequence of the poverty of many of the parents, it is exceedingly difficult to collect the school-fees,

Reading and Writing are taught in all the schools; Arithmetic in 23; Grammar and Geography in 5. In consequence of the want hitherto of properly trained teachers, there is no uniform system of instruction throughout the schools.

Spelling. Out of 1785 children 913 are taught spelling. A large number of these are learning their letters, while others are beginning to read.

Reading. 781 of the children, or rather more than two-fifths, read; about one-half of these with ease and correctness.

The Holy Scriptures, or selections from them, form the reading lessons, with scarcely an exception. It is, however, in contemplation to introduce useful and instructive secular books into all the schools. Experience teaches that the Bible is better understood, remembered, and appreciated, when used in connexion with secular works of known worth, than when constituting the exclusive subject of study.

Writing. Out of 1785 children, 678, or little less than two-fifths, write. Most of these, full two-thirds, write on slates, the rest in copybooks, either from slips, or copies set them by the teacher.

Arithmetic. Out of 1785 children, 598, or one in three, are taught arithmetic. Four-fifths of these are in the simple rules; the rest in the compound and higher rules.

Grammar and Geography. Out of 1785 children, 247 are instructed in the English grammar, and 228 in geography, a proportion of rather more than one in seven. The books used are not of a uniform character, and many of them exceedingly inferior. The acquaintance of the scholars with these educational subjects is very limited; a circumstance to be much regretted.

This report would be incomplete without some allusion to several places in the colony where schools are much required, but cannot be established for want of adequate funds. The educational destitution of the children not under instruction is truly lamentable. It is with a sincere hope of being enabled, by legislative aid, to supply this deficiency, that the Board record the facts brought within their notice.

At Marsh Harbour, Abaco, there are about 40 children. The parents earnestly desire the establishment of a school, and promise to pay the school fee punctually.

There is a school much wanted at Governor's Harbour, and at Savannah Sound, Eleuthera. None but Sunday schools exist in either place. At the former there are three, belonging respectively to the Church of England, the Wesleyan, and the Baptist Society; at the latter, one in connexion with the Methodist Society, which 120 children attend. No schools of any kind are established in the eastern part of Eleuthera. The children are consequently growing up in most deplorable ignorance.

The state of education throughout Exuma is very backward. The means of instruction are too limited for so extensive a district. George Town offers the most eligible site for a school, since the children of Rake Town, in the vicinity, could avail themselves of it. The inhabit-

ants are quite willing to contribute labour, and what materials the island affords towards the erection of a commodious school-house,

There are 117 children at Carrion Crow Harbour, Grand Bahama, without any means of instruction, the school at Eight Mile Rock being 60 miles distant. The people are sincerely desirous of having a school, but the Board cannot render them any assistance.

The inhabitants of Deadman's Cay, Long Island, have petitioned the Board to establish a school there, and promise faithfully to comply with the by-laws. They are principally whites. The children, about 40, are in a wretched state of ignorance.

The Board conclude their Report with an Appendix, which will exhibit the extent to which the poor take advantage of the means of education, the particular state of instruction in each school, the condition of the school-houses, and the expenditure and income.

NAME OF THE DISTRICT.	SITE OF SCHOOL.	Population.	On the Books at last Return.	Average daily attendance.	Number of Scholars.		No. of Paid Teachers, exclusive of Pupil Teachers or Monitors.	Attainments.					
					Boys.	Girls.		Spelling.	Reading.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.
Abaco . . .	Green Turtle Cay. .	1890	86	67	44	42	1	54	53	55	27	..	..
	Little Guano Cay . .	. .	67	60	38	29	1	35	22	12	8	..	..
	Cherokee Sound . .	. .	73	60	31	42	1	48	37	14	27	..	..
Andros Island .	Coakley's Town . .	759	52	18	27	25	2	49	2	13	36	19	..
Crooked Island .	Long Cay . . .	935	23	18	15	8	1	10	10	8	10	3	..
Eleuthera . .	Rock Sound . . .	3445	85	72	42	43	2	44	33	18	16	..	..
	Bluff Settlement . .	..	60	20	27	33	1	33	21	19	18	..	..
	Current Settlement .	..	40	20	16	24	1	7	11	12	12	..	..
	Spanish Wells . .	..	67	55	31	36	1	40	36	40	36	..	..
Exuma . . .	Moss Town . . .	1682	58	44	30	28	1	32	22	14	..	..	..
Grand Bahama .	Eight Mile Rock. .	812	27	21	13	14	1	15	15	6	6	..	..
Harbour Island .	St. John's. . . .	1745	54	42	51	3	1	26	28	24	17	..	..
Long Island. .	Clarence Town . .	1286	39	30	34	5	1	39	37	16	19	..	..
New Providence.	Boys' Central School.	8385	185	115	185	..	1	165	165	165	165	161	161
	Girls' Central School	..	118	59	16	102	1	56	62	62	62	24	24
	Boys' School, Eastern District.	..	86	45	74	12	2	61	54	61	54	40	40
	Western District . .	..	69	37	22	47	1	21	9	10	9	..	..
	Grant's Town . . .	..	194	117	40	154	2	35	35	30	12	..	..
	Fox Hill	..	111	55	44	67	1	13	13	1	..	..	..
Ragged Island .	Duncan's Town . .	313	49	37	28	21	1	15	12	12	12	..	..
St. Salvador. .	North End . . .	674	57	22	41	16	1	40	32	25	25	..	..
Turks Islands .	Grand Cay . . .	1726	46	26	30	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Salt Cay	798	79	45	48	31	1	59	45	45	23	..	..
Watling's Island	Cockburn Town . .	315	39	36	25	14	1	16	6	16	4	..	..

REMARKS.

Green Turtle Cay School.—Mr. Singleton, the teacher under the old Board, continued in charge of the school until the 24th September last, when he transferred it to Mr. Edgecomb. The salary has been reduced to 50*l.* per annum. The appointment of Mr. Edgecomb was a promotion from the Cherokee Sound School. He is honest and zealous in the discharge of his duties. The school has been completely re-organized by him, and is once more progressing to a state of efficiency. An almost insurmountable difficulty has been encountered in associating the white and black children in the school, from the deep-felt aversion manifested by the parents of the former. This complexional prejudice is now beginning gradually to disappear. The school-house is furnished by the inhabitants. It is much too small for the number of children in attendance, and is in bad repair.

Little Guano Cay School.—This school was re-opened on the 25th of October last, under the auspices of the present Board. It had remained closed since the death of the last teacher in 1845. The inhabitants, though poor, have shown a laudable spirit of anxiety to educate their children. They have repaired the old school building, and are about to enlarge it. A residence has been erected for the teacher, who is an active and able young man.

Cherokee Sound School.—Mr. Edgecomb retired from the charge of the school on the 24th of September last. It was re-opened in the early part of last month by Mr. Gwynn, who promises to become a valuable teacher. 75 children attended on the day of opening. The school is held for the present in the old Wesleyan chapel, an airy building, and capable of containing 120 scholars. As soon as the new chapel, now in the course of erection, is completed, the old one is to be dedicated entirely to school purposes.

Coakley's Town, Andros Island.—The school-house is public property, and the inhabitants aided in erecting it. The progress of the scholars is slow. The teacher is, however, zealous, and eager to bring his pupils forward, though the poverty of the inhabitants, and the scattered nature of the district, are serious obstacles to success. There is a teacher of needlework at this school.

BAHAMAS.

Long Cay, Crooked Island.—Many children have recently left this school in consequence of the exaction of the school-fee. Owing to the irregular attendance of the scholars, their progress is necessarily slow. The school-house belongs to the former Commissioners of Salt Ponds, and is in want of repair. It is used as a church.

Rock Sound, Eleuthera.—Mr. Rattray, the teacher under the former Education Board, withdrew from the school on the 24th of June. Since then Mr. and Mrs. Wildgoos have been appointed the master and mistress at an annual salary of 70*l.* They are intelligent and efficient, and the school, in consequence, has rapidly improved. The children are clean, and neatly clad. The school-house is rented by the Board at 12*l.* 10*s.* per annum. It is quite too small to accommodate the number of children in the district who have applied for admission. More than 80 have been refused. The inhabitants have expressed their willingness to wattle and plaster any school-building the Board may erect. They are sincerely desirous their children should receive a sound education.

Bluff Settlement.—The teacher is not sufficiently assiduous in the discharge of her duties. The school is in a very unsatisfactory state. The school-house was built by the inhabitants, and is very much out of repair. The teacher states her inability to obtain contributions from the scholars' parents on account of their poverty. Another mistress is to be appointed.

Current Settlement.—The school has been closed since November on account of the illness of the mistress. The school-house was built by the inhabitants for the Wesleyan Society. In consequence of the state of the school, it will be necessary to appoint another teacher.

Spanish Wells.—The school is at present closed. The late master, Mr. Monro, has been appointed to a public situation. A teacher is now in training at the normal school, who will enter on his duties as soon as he has received a certificate of competency from the normal school-master. The school-house was built by the inhabitants on a public site. There is a girls'-school of industry in this district, in which needlework is taught.

Moss Town, Exuma.—The school-house is too small for the accommodation of the children. The inhabitants are willing to enlarge it, if the requisite materials are furnished. The teacher has had ill-health, and a change will be necessary. 12 of the girls at this school are taught needlework, and 19 platting.

Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama.—The school has been removed to this place from Carrion Crow Harbour. The teacher underwent training at the boys' central school, before he opened the school in the early part of November last. He is active and zealous. The school is at present kept in a building kindly supplied by one of the inhabitants. A piece of ground granted by the executive, has been selected as the site of the future school-house. The people have promised either themselves to erect, or assist in erecting, a suitable edifice. There are 120 children in the district.

St. John's, Harbour Island.—The school is in a tolerably efficient state. The number of scholars has recently diminished, owing to the payment of the school-fee being enforced. The school-house is hired and the rent paid by the master out of his salary. There is a spot of ground set apart for the site of a public school-house, but no funds available for its erection.

Clarence Town, Long Island.—After the death of the late efficient teacher, Mr. Morris, the school was conducted for a quarter by his sister, Miss Wells. It is now under the charge of an attentive and competent master. At the re-opening of the school great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the school fee; the parents of the children for some time refused to let them attend on this account. A mild but firm opposition to this feeling overcame the spirit of resistance. The school is now rapidly increasing in numbers, and improving. The school-house was built by the late teacher, and is used as a church.

New Providence, Boys' Central School.—This is the best conducted and most efficient school under the Board. The master is active and zealous. The mode of instruction hitherto pursued has been neither that of Bell, the Home and Colonial, nor Lancaster, in its purity, but a composite of selections from them all. The school is to be placed for the future under the immediate charge of the normal master, and conducted on the British and Foreign School Society's system. It will be used principally as a seminary for training teachers. Two have been in training during the last six months. One, Mr. Bannister, has already passed a satisfactory examination, and, after receiving a certificate of competency, proceeded to open a school at Grand Bahama. A nautical class, consisting of 14 boys, was formed in July last; one of 17 boys to learn tailoring; and another of 14 boys to be taught shoemaking. A part of the nautical class is constituted of boys belonging to the school in the eastern district of the island. There are four monitors, two of whom are paid a small weekly stipend. The last examination took place at Christmas, the results of which are thus briefly reported by the Secretary:—"The information elicited from the scholars generally was very creditable. The answers to the questions in the different subjects of examination were, on the average, prompt and correct. The only exception I should make is in relation to the nautical class, who, I conceived, evinced a very slight, if any knowledge at all, of navigation. The articles manufactured by the tailoring and shoemaking classes were neatly and well made, and afforded gratifying proofs of the industry and skill of the scholars. Prizes were awarded to 12 pupils for their general proficiency and good conduct.

The school-house is public property; it is fitted with class-rooms, and adapted to the British and Foreign School Society's mode of instruction.

Girls' Central School.—The discipline of this school is lax. The mistress has been employed in the office for near 10 years, and ought, from her experience, to be very capable. A class has been taught platting during the last quarter. Four monitors have been appointed, two of whom receive a weekly stipend. The last examination was unfavourable, as will appear from the following extract from the Secretary's report:—"I regret to say that the examination at the girls model school was not very satisfactory. The only subject on which the scholars

seemed to have any knowledge was the Holy Scriptures. In arithmetic and other branches a sad deficiency was shown. The most rigid supervision on the part of the School Inspector will be required to get and keep the school in proper order. In consequence of the state of the school no prizes were given." The school-house is a substantial stone building, and public property.

Boys' School, Eastern District.—No peculiar mode of instruction has been in operation at this school. The teacher has in some degree followed the example of the master of the Central School in carving out a system for himself, of which the foundation appears to be the Madras. This school, in common with others, will in future be conducted on the system adopted in the British and Foreign Society's Schools. The master, it is to be feared is of too antiquated a character ever to embrace it in its purity and excellence, and energetically and successfully carry out the proposed method.

Western District.—This school is conducted on the infant school system. It is very well organized and disciplined. The mistress is assiduous and intelligent. Several of the girls are of an age and capacity which fit them for removal to the Central School. The school room is rented by the Board at 15*l.* per annum.

Grant's Town School.—This is an infant school; it is not, however, practically confined to infants. A number of girls from 8 to 14 years of age have hitherto been improperly admitted. It is not possible to conduct efficiently a school in which children of such various ages are simultaneously instructed in one room. The school is deficient in organization and discipline, though the teacher is truly earnest in her wish and endeavour to advance her pupils. The school-house is an excellent stone edifice, and public property.

Fox Hill School.—The teacher is faithful, pains-taking, and efficient. The school, an infant one, was opened on the 25th of June last, and has much improved. Its organization and discipline are very creditable. The Hon. Robert Sandilands gave the site for the school-house, and the inhabitants built it. The same gentleman has generously offered to subscribe towards the erection of a suitable teacher's residence, and the people have promised to furnish labour. For want of funds, however, it cannot be proceeded with.

Duncan's Town, Ragged Island.—This school was re-opened in July last. The inhabitants promptly prepaid the school-fees for the quarter, rented a school-house, and subscribed 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* towards erecting a new one. In November, however, they withdrew their children and subscription, assuring the teacher they acted thus in order, by economising their means, to secure the repurchase of their shares at the approaching sale of the salt-ponds. The school is therefore closed for the present.

St. Salvador.—The master is pains-taking and diligent. He teaches some of the children tailoring. There being no suitable school-house, the school is kept at the teacher's residence. A site has been granted by the Executive.

Turks Island, Grand Cay.—The late teacher relinquished his office on the 24th of September last. The school has since remained closed. A teacher is now in training at the Boys' Central School.

Salt Cay.—The master is diligent and efficient. Two paid monitors have lately been appointed at this school. The school-house is public property, and in want of repair.

Watling's Island.—This is an infant school. The mistress is attentive and pains-taking; the children consequently improve. The school-house is a new building, recently erected by the inhabitants. It comprises a commodious residence for the teacher.

The Public in Account Current with Education Board.

1847.	*Dr.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sep. 24.	To paid the Public School-teachers' salaries for the quarter commencing the 25th June, ending the 24th Sep. (Mr. Singleton included) . .	282	2	6
Dec. 24.	To paid contingencies during the quarter .	72	11	7½
	To paid the Public School-teacher's salaries for the quarter ending Dec. 24	288	6	10½
	To paid contingencies during quarter . .	71	13	4¼
	To balance	495	6	8¾
		1210	1	1

1847.	*Cr.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
June.	By amount of grant in Education Act	1150	0	0
	Of which the following sums have been received from the Public Treasury:—			
	June 200 0 0			
	Sep. 300 0 0			
	Dec. 300 0 0			
	£800 0 0			
	By amount of school fees received for Sep. quarter	12	9	8½
Oct.	By Cash from Stipendiary Justice Cartwright, the proceeds of the sale of old school materials at Port Nelson, Rum Cay	26	5	0
Dec.	By School contributions .	14	10	7½
	By Deductions from Teachers' salaries while absent	6	15	9
		1210	1	1

By Balance brought down:—	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash in Public Bank	145	6	8¾
Not yet drawn from the Treasury	350	0	0
	495	6	8¾

STATISTICS of SCHOOLS in the BAHAMAS.

Name of the District.	Public School, and where situated.	Name of Teacher.	EXPENDITURE.						INCOME.	
			Master.	Mistress.	Mistress of the Infant School.	Monitors.	Sundries during the last Six Months.		Government Grant.	Fees during the last Six Months.
							Books and Stationery.	Repairs, Furniture, Apparatus, &c.		
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Abaco.	Green Turtle Cay .	Mr. Edgecombe . .	50 0 0	..	..	..	2 4 6	..	..	1 9 0
	Little Guano Cay .	Mr. Barker . . .	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 13 4¾	..	..	3 10 8¼
	Cherokee Sound . .	Mr. Gwynn . . .	34 0 0	..	..	..	1 18 2¼	..	..	0 3 3
Andros Island . .	Coakley's Town . .	Mr. Sweeting. . .	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 5 6½	..	..	..
		Mrs. Sweeting . .	..	5 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crooked Island . .	Long Cay . . .	Mr. Perpall . . .	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 16 8½	..	..	1 6 3
Eleuthera. . . .	Rock Sound . . .	Mr. and Mrs. Wildgoos	70 0 0	..	..	..	5 0 8½	4 18 9¾	..	1 19 3¾
	Bluff Settlement . .	Mrs. Thompson . .	..	26 0 0	..	..	1 9 10	..	..	0 2 0
	Current ditto . . .	Mrs. Elden . . .	..	26 0 0	..	..	1 0 4	..	..	0 2 0
	Spanish Wells . .	Mr. Munroe . . .	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 5 8	..	..	0 19 9
	Industry ditto . .	Mrs. Bethel . . .	..	10 0 0	..	..	0 1 9	..	..	..
Exuma	Moss Town . . .	Mrs. Young . . .	..	26 0 0	..	..	1 19 1	..	..	..
Grand Bahama . .	Eight Mile Rock. .	Mr. Bannister . .	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 18 2½	..	..	..
Harbour Island . .	St. John's . . .	Mr. Higgs . . .	78 0 0	..	..	..	0 18 9	..	..	2 9 5
Long Island . . .	Clarence Town . .	Mr. Rea	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 15 0	..	..	0 18 0
New Providence . .	Boys' Central . .	Mr. Spence . . .	125 0 0	..	..	1 5 0	3 18 7¼	0 18 6	..	0 7 5
	Girls' Central. . .	Mrs. Mackay. . .	..	50 0 0	..	1 5 0	1 13 8	0 15 7½	..	0 11 6
	Eastern District . .	Mr. and Mrs. Stirrup	50 0 0	..	..	1 5 0	2 13 9½	..	..	1 1 9
	Western District . .	Miss Wylly . . .	..	..	35 0 0	..	1 0 2	..	..	0 2 6
	Grant's Town. . .	Mrs. Horton . . .	..	..	35 0 0	1 5 0	2 4 6¼	0 6 9	..	0 4 4
		Miss Horton . . .	..	..	10 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
	Fox Hill	Mrs. Forbes . . .	..	27 0 0	..	..	1 3 7½	0 4 0	..	1 1 11
Ragged Island . .	Duncan's Town . .	Miss Strachan . .	..	26 0 0	..	..	2 2 8	1 15 5	..	2 3 6
St. Salvador . . .	North End . . .	Mr. Wylly . . .	34 0 0	..	..	..	2 16 3	0 19 4¾	..	1 5 0
Turks Islands . .	Grand Cay . . .	Mr. Forbes . . .	70 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 6 3
	Salt Cay	Mr. Morgan . . .	50 0 0	..	..	1 5 0	3 1 4	..	..	0 16 6
Watling Island . .	Cockburn Town . .	Miss Farquharson .	..	..	26 0 0	..	2 5 9	1 13 10	..	..

Appendix D.

Report of the Trustees of the Nassau Public Library and Museum.

The Trustees of the Nassau Library and Museum have the honour to report to your Honourable House, that in pursuance of the Act of Assembly for the establishment of the same, they have used their best endeavours for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act.

They applied to, and obtained permission from the Lieutenant-Governor, to make use of the large room, in the centre public building, hitherto used as a ball-room, in which they have erected presses for the reception of books, &c. &c., which they have furnished for the use of the members of the library and museum, the reading room, and the Agricultural Society. They have been fortunate in obtaining the sanction of the Trustees of the former Lending Library, to a junction of the two establishments, by which they have an accession of nearly five hundred volumes of valuable books, and they have with careful attention formed rules and regulations for the Government of the Institution which have been approved of by the Executive, and which, as far as they have had the means of judging, have given satisfaction to all interested in them.

They have obtained subscriptions to the establishment, to the amount of 120*l.* and they have received several valuable donations, both to the library and museum. They have sent to England for a carefully selected collection of books, to the amount of 150*l.*, the arrival of which they shortly expect, and they are happy to add, that from the ready support the Institution has received from all classes, the liberality of the Honourable House in its establishment, appears to be justly appreciated, and they have every reason to hope that it will continue to prosper, and will be as beneficial as it is creditable to the colony.

For the purpose of carrying out the intentions of the Legislature in this matter, it was considered absolutely necessary that an intelligent and trustworthy person should be appointed to attend daily as Librarian, and the Trustees were fortunate in obtaining the services of a gentleman on whose attention and ability they can confidently rely. They have not, however, the means of remunerating him without most injuriously diminishing the funds so much required for other purposes, and they therefore submit to your Honourable House the expediency of making such provision for the Librarian as they may think proper; as his time, however, will be entirely occupied by his duties as such from nine o'clock until four every day, they would take the liberty of suggesting that the sum of 60*l.* per annum would, in their opinion, be but a fair salary.

(Signed) J. C. Lees,
G. C. Anderson.
C. R. Nesbitt.
G. J. Handford.
Wm. Machue.
T. G. Meadows.

Appendix E.

Sir, Nassau, March 2, 1848.

In obedience to the Governor's commands, signified to us in your letter of the 31st January, that we should furnish a report, on a system of prison discipline, combining instruction with punishment, we have the honour to request that you will lay before his Excellency the following observations:—

"As the prisons on the out-islands are, for the most part, very small establishments, calculated rather for the temporary detention of offenders than for their punishment or reformation, and are seldom or never used for carrying out the sentences of the General Court, the present report, though treating of the prison discipline of the Bahamas, will refer chiefly to the prison in this town." We propose—

1st. To describe the system of discipline at present in force, which is almost exclusively penal.

2nd. To submit such alterations and improvements of this system as would, in our opinion, have the effect of making imprisonment tend to the reformation as well as the punishment of offenders.

3rd. To point out such alterations in the buildings now in use as are indispensably necessary for carrying out either the present system or the improved one we suggest.

The prisons of the Bahamas are governed by a code of regulations, founded on the prison rules of England, and approved by the Governor in Council on the 17th August, 1846.

The Committee of management, (consisting of the police magistrate and two other justices of the peace) have the power of making supplementary rules, which when similarly approved, have, as well as the original regulations, the force of law.

These rules enjoin labour, solitude, and instruction, owing to the defective construction of the prison, which we shall point out in the third section of the report, it is difficult, we may say impossible, to enforce either silence or solitude, particularly the latter.

The only means of instruction at present available to the prisoners consist of three services

BAHAMAS

in the week by the chaplain, and the attendance for two hours on Sundays of a schoolmaster, who receives a remuneration of 10*l.* per annum.

The system of labour enforced at present is as follows :—

The male prisoners sentenced to hard labour are worked from sunrise until sunset on the public roads, in the charge of overseers.

The female prisoners of the same class are employed in grinding corn with the tread-mill, and in washing and mending clothes.

Both male and female prisoners, not sentenced to hard labour, are required to work within the walls of the prison; the females in mending clothes, the males in cleaning the buildings and the yards.

Having thus described the system of discipline in force, we will proceed, in pursuance of the plan we have laid down, to submit such alterations as we think it desirable should be made.

We consider the present system of instruction to be incomplete and inefficient; and we would recommend instead that some competent person be permanently employed within the prison walls in imparting industrial and general instruction to the prisoners, and in superintending and directing their labours.

We would further recommend the discountenance, when circumstances may permit it, of the system of hard labour on the roads, which is a mode of punishment, attended, in our opinion, with many disadvantages.

The expense of paying overseers is very considerable; but notwithstanding this it is difficult, even for the remuneration allowed, to secure the services of persons possessing the requisite discretion and powers of command.

The prisoners so taken out have also facilities of escape, and opportunities of intercourse, both with one another, and with their associates outside the walls, which produce very demoralizing effects, and render this species of punishment disregarded and ineffective. It is, moreover, so acceptable to the prisoners themselves, that instances have frequently occurred of prisoners committed for examination, or for imprisonment without hard labour, requesting as a favour to be allowed to go out with the labouring gang.

We think that a much greater effect, both as regards punishment and reformation, would be secured by confining each prisoner in a separate cell, not allowing him, either by day or by night, any intercourse with other prisoners, and rigidly requiring him to perform daily a certain task of useful labour, to be allotted to him by an officer such as we have described.

We may observe here that it would have a beneficial effect if the magistrates, as well as the general Court, were empowered by law, in the case of juvenile offenders, to award a moderate personal correction, in lieu of imprisonment.

We now come to the third part of our report, viz., the state of the present prison and its deficiencies.

This prison consists of two yards, divided by a high wall.

The southern yard contains the sailors' house and the octagon building, known by the name of the Gaol. This building, divided into 12 large cells, is devoted exclusively to the confinement of male prisoners, four or five of whom are locked up for the night in each cell for want of more accommodation.

This at once renders impracticable any system of silence and separation, such as we have referred to in the preceding report. These cells, having each two windows, might, by the erection of stone partitions, be doubled in number.

As, however, the average number of male prisoners may be stated at from 35 to 40, the accommodation would still be too limited.

This yard ought to contain 40 cells, with six or eight cells for punishment, and a storeroom and office for the gaoler.

Whether it be expedient to provide this extra number of cells by enlarging the octagon building, or by erecting another building, we do not feel competent to judge, and would, therefore, suggest the advantage of the civil engineer being informed what is wanted, and requested to submit a plan of it to the Governor.

The northern yard contains the turnkey's house, and the building formerly known as the workhouse. In this yard and building the female prisoners are confined. It contains altogether 18 cells, and four cells for punishment. The lower cells, however, are uninhabitable from damp. The upper ones are divided only by partitions of wood, through which the prisoners can easily converse together after they are locked up.

There are no rooms for the matron, who has, in consequence, to sleep outside the walls.

This building is so imperfect and dilapidated, that we can point out no improvement but that of building a new one.

We will, therefore, only state that this yard ought to contain 15 cells—five cells for punishment, and two rooms for the matron.

In concluding this report, we wish to observe that, in the second section, we have not submitted a matured plan, inasmuch as we are aware that, until the building is arranged in a much more ample scale than at present, it will be impossible properly to give effect to any such plan.

We beg to refer his Excellency to the excellent Report on Prison Discipline lately furnished by a Select Committee of the House of Lords, on the evidence of the judges of England, and other high authorities, and to state that we should take that document for our guide, if we were called upon to set forth the details of the plan, of which we have given merely the outline.

We are fully sensible that the alterations proposed in the third part of our report cannot be effected without a considerable outlay. As, however, it forms no part of our duty to consider this question in a financial point of view, and as we have been called upon by the Governor to

state our opinion of what was required, we have done so to the best of our ability, leaving it to his Excellency, in his wisdom, to decide how far it may be prudent or expedient to carry out the whole or any part of our suggestions.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) J. C. Lees, Chairman.
F. MacCarthy.
Wm. Vesey Munnings.
G. Armbrister.
Stephen Dillet.
C. T. Pinder.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

(No. 39.) No. 9. No. 9.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Reid to Earl Grey.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
May 24, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received June* 21, 1848.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Barbados Blue Book and Annual Report for the year 1847.

I have, &c.,

Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) W. REID, Governor.
&c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 9. Encl. in No. 9.

Annual Report to accompany the Barbados Blue Book for 1847.

Along with the Barbados Blue Book of 1847 I transmit the commencement of a work on the Statistics of the West Indies, undertaken by Mr. James Walker, Colonial Secretary. I felt it my duty to encourage and support Mr. Walker in this useful undertaking. He had collected and arranged statistical information for each of the Windward Islands; but the printer has failed this year to complete more than what relates to Barbados alone. West India Statistics.

I likewise transmit a copy of the Barbados Agricultural Reporter, from its commencement up to the end of 1847. A glance at the index of this work will show its value as conducive to the improvement of agriculture and the manufacture of sugar. The Barbados Agricultural Reporter has hitherto been carried on as a private undertaking, but it is now conducted by the Council of the General Agricultural Society, and its price has been reduced by the Society to one-half. I have endeavoured to combine the efforts of the several Agricultural Societies in the Windward Islands in supporting this work through the Lieutenant-Governors. This publication shows that there does exist here a strong desire to introduce improved systems of agriculture and in the manufacture of sugar. Agricultural Reporter.

During two different occasions within the last year the island was in danger of wanting food. The famine in Ireland, and scarcity of food elsewhere, was seriously felt in the West Indies, on account of the American shipping (usually bringing provisions here) carrying their produce to Europe. Food.

The alarm consequent on dearth of food has led to planting provisions in the island, as was formerly done, and which it is to be hoped will be kept up.

The rate of wages has been reduced, and throughout all classes frugality is practised from necessity. Wages.

I endeavoured on my first arrival here to revive a Temperance Society, which had been before unsuccessfully attempted. This Society has now taken Temperance.

BARBADOS.

root in the midst of distilleries, and promises to effect a great social revolution in West Indian habits.

Itinerant Courts of Appeal.

Amongst the subjects of most importance to which attention has been drawn in the Windward Islands during the past year is that of reviving the subject of the establishment of either Circuit Courts of Judicature, or Itinerant Courts of Appeal. My object has been to invite discussion on this important object, and as there are difficulties in finding funds at present, even for the most useful purposes, to avoid seeking for an immediate decision on this question. The subject is one requiring much consideration. The attention of the judges within the several islands of the Windward Government is now particularly directed to it. I hope this course may lead before long to improving the present judicial system in the West Indies.

The Imperial Act of 1836 contemplated the necessity of all the Windward Islands combining to establish a Supreme Circuit Court; but it is evident that any single island might procure for itself the valuable advantage of appealing to judges of the neighbouring islands, when the parties are not satisfied with the decisions pronounced by the local judges.

I am not myself competent to give an opinion as to the extent to which the existence of the old French system of laws in St. Lucia might render it difficult to extend to the inhabitants there the advantage of an Itinerant Court of Appeal. But I cannot doubt that we ought to give the subject serious consideration, with a view to having that island occasionally visited by other judges, empowered to review the proceedings of the local Court. Such visits would further tend to the general improvement of the laws of St. Lucia.

I shall here insert a paper on the subject of Itinerant Courts of Appeal, containing the views of Chief Justice Sir Bowcher Clarke.

LETTER from Sir BOWCHER CLARKE, Chief Justice of Barbados, to Governor REID.

SIR, Chambers, Barbados, May 20, 1848.

I HAVE hitherto purposely refrained from addressing your Excellency respecting the amendment in the administration of justice in the colonies under your government, on which we have frequently conversed, because I felt the present time to be most inauspicious for the success of any measure involving even a trifling additional outlay; but as you have recently expressed a wish that I should no longer delay, I will not permit mere prudential reasons to deter me from bringing the subject officially under your consideration.

It is quite foreign to my purpose to discuss the various plans of judicial reform which have been proposed for us from time to time; nor have I any intention to comment on the recommendations made by the Commissioners of Legal Inquiry, in obedience to the instructions of the Colonial Minister, under date the 1st November 1822, the chief of which have been embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament, have been accepted in principle by the Colonial Legislatures, and only await from them the requisite funds to be brought into operation. I must also confess that if I saw any probability of the adoption of their system I should be inclined to pause before I ventured, on my own responsibility, to make the following suggestions.

It may be proper further to premise that it is not my object to alter the Constitution of any of our existing Courts, but to aid their more complete and satisfactory workings; and I am persuaded that nothing would so immediately and powerfully tend to promote this most desirable end as the establishment of an efficient and easily accessible appellate jurisdiction over them for those cases especially in which the value or amount in dispute is under 500*l.* sterling (the limit fixed by the Royal Instructions for Appeals to the Queen in Council), to which parties dissatisfied with their decisions might be enabled promptly to resort, without incurring the ruinous delays and expenses of applications to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The specific proposition then which I beg to submit to your Excellency's favourable notice is, the formation of an itinerant Court of Appeal from the decisions of the several Civil Courts under your Government, in cases in which the value or amount in dispute in any of those Courts does not exceed the sum of 500*l.* sterling, exclusive of costs. I venture to assert that there is no difficulty in accomplishing this; that we have fitting materials within our reach; that it would be most appropriately composed of the several chief judges of these colonies; and that it should be so organized that any two of these judges should be authorized, in the manner to be hereafter pointed out, to constitute such Court of Appeal for either of the colonies other than those of which they are respectively judges.

The only important alteration in our present judicial system which the introduction of the proposed scheme would necessarily cause would be the abolition of the several Courts of Error, composed of the Governor and Council of each colony; an abolition which, I believe, would not be regretted by the members of those Courts, and which has been already practically effected by the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 7th and 8th Vict., c. 69, which permits appeals from the colonies to be made, without the intervention of the Colonial Courts of Error, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Assuming that there is no valid objection to the principles of the measure, the points to be considered for carrying it into execution are chiefly the following:—

1st. The mode of appointment of the proposed Court.

2nd. The regulation of its visits to the colonies, or circuit.

3rd. The expenses attending its sittings.

1st. There are several modes of constituting such a Court. It may be done by Act of Parliament; but this does not appear to me necessary, as there is nothing in the proposal at variance with the Act 6 Will. IV., c. 17, so as to render an application to Parliament indispensable in order to obtain an alteration of that law. Secondly, the Crown possessing by prerogative the right of erecting Courts of justice, it may possibly be done by a Royal Charter of justice, and the functions and powers of the Court could be very accurately defined in the charter. Thirdly, it might be done by legislative enactments in the several colonies inclined to adopt it, subject of course to the confirmation of the Crown; and I am of opinion that it will be found necessary to have recourse to this power, because in most of these colonies the Courts of Error, which would be dispensed with by its introduction, are for the most part regulated if not established by local Acts that have received the Royal Assent; and although there can be no doubt that Parliament possesses the power of repealing or modifying such Acts, the question is a very different one, whether the Crown can by a charter abrogate Courts the constitutions of which are confirmed and their practice and process regulated by the legislative authority of chartered colonies. At any rate I would not desire to raise such a question unnecessarily, and it would be very imprudent to do so in this instance, since it is from our local Legislatures alone that we can expect to receive the funds necessary to effect the objects contemplated. Lastly it might be done by the joint operation of a charter of justice constituting the Court and defining its jurisdiction and powers, and of local laws in the colonies removing impediments to its efficient working, and providing the means for bringing it into immediate operation; and this I think the preferable course, but the selection will be best made by the superior judgment of the colonial minister.

2nd. The regulation of its visits to the colonies or its circuits.

This power, involving as it will the appointment of the judges who are from time to time to sit in each island, should be defined so as not to admit of any doubt, and it seems to me can only be vested in the Governor-in-Chief, who will alone be able so to exercise it as not to cause any unnecessary interference with the business of the Courts below, and to suit, whenever practicable, the personal conveniences of the judges. I do not, however, think it would be expedient that regular circuits at specified times should be appointed for the commencement of the proposed system; I would rather advise its being applied at the outset as occasion may require, and that whenever there is business requiring the presence of the Court in any colony, the Governor-in-Chief shall have the power to send it there for its dispatch. By this arrangement much waste of time and expense may be avoided, improper appeals rendered less likely, and a more prompt remedy applied to all cases really needing one; and in process of time, if experience of its working shall demand it, a regular circuit system may be established for it. It would be necessary at once, however, to limit the number of visits to any one colony in the course of the year, and in order to enable the Governor-in-Chief to regulate these in the most satisfactory manner, it should be incumbent on each judge to give immediate notice to the Lieutenant-Governor of the colony, of every appeal which is made from his decision, as soon as it is perfected by the necessary security for prosecuting it, and for costs, to the end that he may communicate with the Governor-in-Chief, and enable him to make provision for its hearing.

3rd. The expenses attending its sittings, the difficulty of obtaining the large funds to effect all the judicial reforms which have been deemed necessary in our judicature, has hitherto been an insurmountable obstacle to their introduction; and I should not think of proposing any scheme at the present eventful crisis which would require any appreciable addition to the burdens of any colony. All that is needed would be to provide for the transit of the judges, their accommodation while in the island to which they were sent, and such remuneration as would be fairly proportioned to the labour cast upon them when called on to perform this extra duty.

With respect to the first and second items, the expense would be very trifling indeed; and in regard to the third, I am persuaded it could not present any real impediment to the successful working of the measure if the principle is approved of. My own sincere sentiments on the subject are that I would sacrifice much to provide for the suitors of my Courts a right to a prompt and comparatively inexpensive remedy for correcting any errors of my own judgment, being certain that I should thus be best enabled to perform the duties of my office with increased comfort to myself, with greater satisfaction to the public, and credit to the character of the Courts over which I preside.

I would propose then that the Legislature of each colony in your Excellency's Government should be invited to place at the disposal of the Governor-in-Chief the annual sum of (200*l.*) two hundred pounds sterling, to form a fund for carrying out this scheme. I am satisfied it will be found quite sufficient to defray all necessary and reasonable expenses; and that it shall be left to the Governor-in-Chief, in every instance in which the Court is called into action, to adjust and arrange its expenditure as he shall see fit.

It may possibly be objected that the contribution of each island should not be the same. But the whole sum required is so small in amount that it would be difficult to find any unobjectionable scale of apportionment; while the records of the Privy Council with respect to appeals from colonies will abundantly prove that the size, the condition, and population of a

BARBADOS.

colony afford no just criterion for estimating the number of appeals which may be expected from it.

In sketching the preceding outline for consideration I have avoided all minor matters of mere detail; of these there are many, which will be best disposed of by the several members of the proposed Court, should your Excellency's recommendation of it secure the principle a favourable reception from Earl Grey. There are, however, one or two points which it will be better at once to notice.

In the first place, I do not anticipate that any difficulty will be experienced in undertaking the duty of supervising the decisions of the Courts in the islands of Barbados, St. Vincent's, Grenada, and Tobago; for although distinctions exist in their laws, and in the practice of their Courts, arising from the different times and modes of their settlement as colonies, yet they all possess that similarity to the laws of England which is necessarily incident to a common origin; nor would the introduction of greater uniformity and a nearer approximation to the mother country in their codes and the proceedings of their respective tribunals, which would gradually but certainly follow in the wake of such a Court, be attended with small benefits to their inhabitants.

With regard to St. Lucia it will be worthy of consideration whether it should be dealt with in the same manner as is provided by the 23rd section of the 6th Will. IV., c. 17, or whether it ought not at once to be included in the same scheme, forming as it does a portion of the same Government. I confess the experience I had in the affairs of that colony when Crown officer of this induces me to hazard an opinion that the latter course is the preferable one, as likely most speedily to introduce British law and practice into its Courts.

I trust also I shall not be misunderstood or be deemed presumptuous in stating my opinion that the knowledge of colonial institutions, the acquaintance with the existing relations of colonial society, its customs and manners, possessed by the proposed members of the Court, all conduce to render them especially adapted to the performance of such supervising duties in the sister colonies; and will, I believe, on that very account, be found to make their appointment acceptable to their respective communities.

Your Excellency will observe that I have not proposed to give jurisdiction to this Appeal Court in cases which as a matter of right may be brought directly before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; because it might be deemed unbecoming in me to propose to interfere with that high Court, especially since that great boon was conferred on the colonies of the Empire of abolishing the necessity for two re-hearings of a cause by permitting a direct appeal to its authority from any colony; and because I think that in the cases in which the proposed Court has jurisdiction its decisions should be final. I have, therefore, named as a limit that sum which has long been assigned to these colonies by the royal instructions, viz. 500*l.*; but I consider this a question peculiarly in the province of the Colonial Minister to decide; and, adverting to the precedents established by different charters of justice for other colonies, it will be seen that the sum or value for which appeals may be made to England varies considerably, as, for instance, in Gibraltar the amount specified in its charter of 1830 is 300*l.*; in Van Diemen's Land its charter of 1831 fixes it 1000*l.*; and in New South Wales the amount is 2000*l.* sterling by letters patent of 1823. There is, therefore, no settled rule on the subject; and the superior judgment of the Colonial Minister will, I believe, best decide these very important points, whether the limit shall remain at 500*l.* as at present fixed, or whether it shall be increased, and to what amount, the new Court having authority finally to dispose of such specified cases? or, whether the parties in a cause shall not have the option, when the value exceeds a given amount, to apply to and abide by its decision, or to go at once in the accustomed course to the Privy Council. It is of great importance, in my view of these questions, to avoid the possibility of a double appeal.

You will also perceive that I propose to confine this jurisdiction to civil causes; it will be ample time for us to include criminal cases when the mother country shall have decided on that difficult question for herself.

It will be essentially necessary for the judges to possess the power of framing rules and regulations, not only for the practice to be observed in the Appeal Court when assembled, but also to make general rules, to be binding on the several Courts below, for regulating the terms of appeals, and the security for prosecuting them, as well as for requiring the judge to furnish notes of the evidence and the reasons of his judgment in every case where his decision is to be reviewed. They will also require authority not only to establish a table of costs for the proceedings before them, but should, I think, have power to adjust the costs incurred in the Court below in the matter of the appeal. It will require, especially at the commencement, large powers in this particular to be vested in the Court of Appeal, to check unnecessary applications to it in frivolous cases.

I am not desirous of troubling your Excellency with any further observations at present. I have endeavoured to give an outline of what I consider a very simple, and believe to be a perfectly practicable, scheme for materially improving our colonial judicature.

I forbear to enumerate many particular advantages which I believe will be derived from its adoption. Its principal, and I hope I may be permitted without offence to add its most beneficial effect will be to place in the hands of Her Majesty's representative in these colonies the power of causing the decisions of their civil tribunals to be reviewed on the spot, at any time that the interests of suitors may demand it, by judges possessed of the advantages of experience in the practice of colonial Courts, but knowing nothing of the parties or merits of the particular case, save what they legitimately derive from the records and documents of the cause itself. I cannot doubt that such a tribunal would speedily conciliate for itself the support of public

opinion; that it would tend to create for the decisions of our Courts a general confidence, not only among ourselves, but among that large class in the mother country which is directly interested in the honour and welfare of these colonies; and last, and not least to my mind, it would ultimately relieve the general character of our jurisprudence from the unmerited stain of particular disparagements to it. At any rate I trust your Excellency will be satisfied that I can have no other object in view in submitting these proposals to you than an earnest desire to improve the administration of justice, and to elevate the character of those tribunals with which my own reputation is so immediately connected.

I have, &c.,

Governor Reid, &c. &c. (Signed) R. Bowcher Clarke, Chief Justice of Barbados.

Chancery Court.

Another step towards improvement in the Courts is now in progress, by which it is proposed to enable the Chief Justice of each island to sit alone in the Court of Chancery as Vice Chancellor; the Governor still being the Chancellor, and retaining the power to sit and preside in that Court.

Assistant Court of Appeal.

The Act constituting the three stipendiary magistrates judges of an assistant Court of Appeal has been of great value to Barbados. This Court hears appeals from the decisions of the justices of the peace and police magistrates, and assists the Governor in investigating complaints preferred by petitioners. It has been proposed to extend this system to Grenada; and it is to be desired that it should be extended to all the other islands, provided a sufficient number of gentlemen can be found amongst the stipendiary magistrates fit for judges of an Appeal Court.

Colonial Officers.

I look upon another proposition, which I made in 1847, as one of great importance to the colonies, and deserving further consideration. This proposition is, that any salaried civil officer serving in the colonies who may be accused of conduct unworthy of a British Crown officer, and not choosing to resign, shall be amenable by law before a tribunal composed of officers of as many different branches of the Queen's Service as may be conveniently brought together. I think such Courts should be empowered to pronounce an opinion and award a sentence, as in Naval Courts, reserving to the Crown the power to remit or mitigate sentences. In the Ordnance branch of the public service all civil officers serving abroad are amenable before a Court-martial. I can see no sufficient reason why salaried civil officers of the Colonial department serving in the colonies should not be made amenable to some tribunal empowered by law to investigate charges alleged against them. The visits of the admiral to each of the stations of the West Indies would there give facility to these trials, by affording officers to sit on the Courts, and giving the means of conveyance from other islands to military or civil officers as members.

Formal inquiries made in this manner would effectually repress ill conduct, and put an end to that system, long justly complained of, in officers who have misconducted themselves in distant colonies going direct to the Colonial Office in the capacity of injured men.

Education.

I found the schools generally in Barbados in a very low state, and not at all suited to the wants of a community just emerged from slave institutions. The Barbados schools are but ill calculated to render workmen more intelligent, or to make education attractive. The occupation of the planter and manufacturer of sugar must henceforward be regarded as a scientific pursuit, and the rudiments of those sciences required for it should be taught in the schools.

My efforts have been therefore directed towards correcting as far as I can what seems defective in this respect. In several of the schools practical geometry suited for mechanics is now taught. Rudimentary chemistry is taught and practically explained in one of the schools. In all the higher schools chemistry will, I hope, be henceforward made a part of the system of instruction. At Harrison's free school a library and a collection of philosophical instruments are formed for the instruction of the pupils. Efforts made to introduce industrial training into the schools have not yet been successful. Before this can succeed there requires to be formed a Board of education, in which laymen shall take the lead; which Board shall cause the schools to be inspected, and which shall distribute aid from the public revenue to the schools only in proportion as it is deserved.

The Rev. Mr. Rawle, principal of Coddrington College, has himself remodelled a school for children of the working classes, which it is to be hoped will become a model school for the whole island, and which promises to be extensively useful by introducing a better system of teaching.

BARBADOS.

I regard the bookseller as equally important with the schoolmaster in furthering the improvement of the West Indies, and the general diffusion of useful books as an essential step towards the advancement of the West Indian communities. Hence the reason why I have earnestly and publicly urged the formation in each of the islands of public libraries free to all persons alike. During the past year public libraries on this principle have been established in the islands of Barbados, St. Lucia, and Grenada. Wherever useful books are disseminated I observe that a desire to learn to read them follows. In Bridgetown, Barbados, there are two booksellers; and attempts are making to establish booksellers in Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia.

Emigration to St. Lucia.

I stated last year that I regard the prospect of settling the spare lands of St. Lucia from Barbados as a subject of much interest to both islands. The most eligible portion of that island for Barbados settlers is the southern part, where a small colony is in fact already established. I continue to be of opinion that branches from the families of Barbados planters will in time extend their operations to St. Lucia, and cultivate the lands they may purchase with Barbadian settlers. But there has been no further emigration during the past year. At present the high prices charged by the mail steamers for the deck passage checks the communication between the two islands. The most eligible locations lie between Souffriere and Vieux Fort, places which will be found on the annexed map of St. Lucia.

Burnt portion of Bridgetown.

A large portion of the town of Bridgetown, burned in 1845, remains unbuilt. The space was purchased by legislative enactment, and laid out on an improved plan, to be resold in lots for building; but commercial failures, and the suspension of cash payments by the West India Bank, have prevented purchasers from coming forward, so that progress is suspended.

Revenue.

The same causes, together with the general depression of West Indian affairs, by diminishing the revenue have left the treasury empty.

Railway.

An Act, passed and confirmed to give power to a Company to make a railway in Barbados, will expire at the end of the present year, owing to the number of shares required not having been taken.

Gaols.

There exists a general desire that the system of prison discipline and the management of the gaols should be placed on the most improved footing consistent with the means of the island; and an Act has been passed for the erection of a new gaol; but it is impossible, in the present state of the colony, to contemplate commencing any new work of magnitude.

Shipping and Seamen.

The population of Barbados is supposed to be fast increasing. The time is already arrived when it would be desirable that a larger portion of its people should engage in seafaring pursuits. I have drawn the attention of the Legislature to the subject of binding boys apprentices to the sea, who, by demanding parochial relief, become burdens on the public. I pointed out how an island importing a great part of its provisions, and with a population exceeding 120,000, many of whom are well fitted for seamen, is without ships of its own, and that the inhabitants are therefore doubly dependent on others for the means of subsistence. There is here a large class of indigent persons of European descent better fitted for navigation than for tropical agriculture, and it would be for the benefit of individuals of this class as well as for the general interests, that they should thus occupy themselves.

Emigration Africa.

A society has been formed here for the purpose of establishing a settlement on the coast of Africa, and maintaining a communication between it and the West Indies. This is a new and interesting reason why the island should form seamen and possess ships of its own.

Marriage.

During last year a recommendation was made that lands which escheat to the Crown should be given to the next of kin of legitimate birth, and this is a principle which I think should be applied generally to the West Indies.

Its object is to assist the organization of society into families as the foundation of all social order. I am given to understand that the number of marriages contracted does not show the progress making in this respect, and that marriage is too often contracted in order to obtain legal powers over younger women. Illegitimate ties with a plurality of women are maintaining many social evils in the West Indies which Government should strive to diminish.

Lighthouse.

During the last year an Act passed for providing for the maintenance of a lighthouse, which had been for many years under discussion. It is a subject interesting to the general navigation of this part of the Atlantic, being the

most windward part of the West India Islands, rather than to the island itself.

The local currency is still in existence here, but a bill has been introduced into the House of Assembly to abolish it, and introduce the sterling account in its stead. Currency.

The following memoranda relative to hurricanes explain the signals concerted last year to give warning of the approach of storms. I have endeavoured to explain in what way ships leaving port at the setting in of a storm should be steered under different circumstances, and how houses should be barricaded against the wind. Hurricanes.

Memoranda relative to Hurricanes.

A barometer is kept and registered at the principal police station at Bridgetown, Barbados, and notice will be given to the captain of the port when it falls. On the captain of the port rests the responsibility of causing signals to be hoisted, that the barometer indicates bad weather.

One ball at the mast head of the signal posts is to signify that the barometer is falling, and should be carefully watched.

If the barometer continues to fall, and the weather appears threatening, a second ball will be hoisted at the mast head.

As the indications of the weather become alarming, these two balls will be gradually lowered, until they are only half-mast high.

As soon as the barometer begins to rise again, the two balls will begin to be slowly rehoisted, so as to be again at the mast head when the barometer shall have risen one-tenth of an inch.

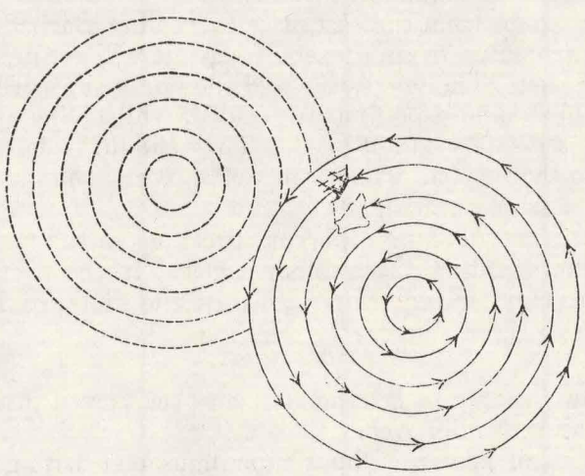
When the barometer shall have risen two-tenths of an inch, then one ball will be taken off, and the other be left until the storm shall have passed over.

Hurricanes being whirlwinds, the wind in the circuit of its revolution blows from every point of the compass within the circuit of the whirlwind. The veering of the wind is owing to the whirlwind's progress. Hence the reason, why the trade wind is often reversed during these tempests.

Ships riding at anchor in Carlisle Bay, unless their commanders prefer to remain there, cannot put to sea too early after the first indication of a hurricane.

When the wind veers from north-east towards east with a falling barometer, it may be expected to become south-east and south-south-east, and in this case the centre of the storm would be passing on the southward of the island.

In the following figure, the centre of a hurricane, coming from the east-south-east direction, and moving in the direction of St. Lucia, is supposed to be passing on the south side of Barbados:—

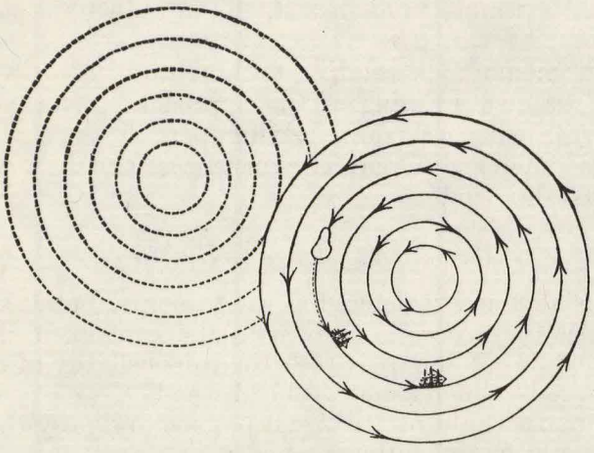


When the trade wind changes to north, and to north by west, with a falling barometer, the wind may be expected to become north-west and to veer to west, and perhaps even to south-west. In this case the centre of the storm would be passing to the northward of the island.

When the wind changes to north, and blows steadily from that quarter, it may be expected to change suddenly to the south; in this case the centre of the storm would pass over the island. Both these last cases will be understood by an inspection of the annexed diagram, in which the concentric circles

BARBADOS.

marked by continuous lines are intended to show a hurricane setting in; whereas the dotted circles are intended to represent the position of the same hurricane after having passed over Barbados:—



In either case, ships remaining too long at anchor would be in danger of becoming embayed on a lee shore.

The hurricanes which have passed over Barbados, and of which we have any precise records, have all come from the eastward or south-eastward. When the centre is expected to pass on the northward of the island, or over the island, ships quitting Carlisle Bay should endeavour to run to the southward and south-eastward, by scudding in the first instance. But when the centre is expected to pass on the southward or south-west side of Barbados, a ship should go to the northward, and come to the wind on the starboard tack, otherwise it might sail into the vortex of the storm, as may be seen by referring to the first diagram. By keeping to the eastward, whilst the storm is moving to the westward, ships will sooner be out of a hurricane.

The same rules, in some degree modified on account of the other windward islands forming a chain, apply also to them.

The earliest indication of a coming storm is sometimes a heavy swell of the sea, caused by the storm at a distance. When the Barbados hurricane of 1831 was passing over St. Lucia, the swell of the sea raised by that storm was felt as far as the Bermudas, and broke against the south shore of those islands.

A severe storm which passed over the Bahamas and Bermuda Islands at the end of January, 1845, sent a swell to the West Indies so heavy as to endanger the "Euridice" frigate, at anchor in St. John's Harbour, Antigua, the wind blowing but lightly at Antigua at the time.

When a storm comes from the east, it will set in at Barbados with the wind at north; when it comes from the south-east, it will set in at Barbados with the wind at north-east. The north-east and the north sides of houses are, therefore, the sides which should be first barricaded, whilst the opposite doors and windows might with safety be left open. They should be barricaded in succession, according to the way in which the wind veers round. The same rules apply to the other windward islands.

That great storms revolve in different directions in the northern and in the southern hemispheres is now an established fact. In the northern hemisphere they revolve from right to left, thus: In the southern hemisphere they revolve from left to right, thus: 

Militia.

The militia law in force in Barbados is an Act passed in 1839, for consolidating and amending former Acts.

As Barbados is an island without mountains and with good roads, I have recommended a more powerful island artillery to be organized, and that a law be passed by which field cannon may be made moveable with celerity by means of the estate horses, mules, cattle, and harness.

I have pointed out that the field cannon should be drawn a little back from the seashore; that the depôts of spare arms and ammunition, instead of being left by the seaside, should be placed in the police stations least easy of access to invaders.

I have likewise pointed out the necessity for troops in action being supplied with spare ammunition. This essential service is overlooked in all the colonial

militia laws which I have seen, and it should be provided for by arrangements made beforehand.

I have recommended the foundation of an engineer company for each regiment of militia, to be instructed how defences are to be made in haste, in presence of invaders. My own experience in war has taught me the value of infantry thus instructed, and provided with implements for strengthening posts which they may have to defend.

In Barbados, which has neither woods or mountains, but which is full of strong buildings, the crowbar would be the implement most wanted; but amongst the wooded mountains of the other windward islands the axe would be the principal implement for constructing defences.

From the sea shore inwards the island of Barbados rises as it were in steps, forming a succession of cliffs presenting favourable positions for defence. These cliffs, and the table land between them, are intersected by deep gullies; combined, they form remarkable military features, somewhat complicated, and therefore every officer of militia should examine them, and make himself well acquainted with their military advantage for defence.

Sanitary Station.

It has been proposed to construct a sanitary station for the troops on Gun Hill, making it a defensive barrack. The highest ground in Barbados is about 1100 feet high; Gunhill being somewhat more than 700 feet.

The difference of temperature between the garrison at the level of the sea and the high land is about four or five degrees of Fahrenheit; but it is probable that the sanitary advantage of the higher ground in Barbados for Europeans does not depend so much on diminished temperature as on equal temperature during night and day.

The island is scarcely large enough to cause regular diurnal land and sea breezes. Nevertheless, the denser cool air of the heights descends after sunset, producing a disagreeable chilling sensation to those persons who have passed the heat of the day in the lower level.

It is deserving of notice that the poor whites, long existing in great numbers in the island, have by degrees established themselves along the windward shore, or upon the heights I allude to. Unfortunately the garrisons in the West Indies are almost every where placed to leeward.

Agricultural Improvement.

When we reflect how slow mankind has always been in changing established habits, I think too much has been expected of the West India planter, towards throwing off old habits in agriculture and in the manufacture of sugar, in the short space of time which has elapsed since the emancipation of the slaves. Before men will make changes, they must be satisfied that they are to derive advantages from them. The benefits which result from improved general education, though sure in their effects, are but gradual, and the period of a generation will probably pass before marked benefits will result from the diffusion of education.

Few things strike a stranger more on his arrival at Barbados than the bad state of the working cattle, and seeing 10 and sometimes 12 weak oxen drawing in a waggon. The same number are put to the plough. The cattle are generally of a small breed, and much out of condition, which seems attributable both to the scarcity of sufficient food, and to the want of shelter from the sun and rain.

The cultivation of pasture grasses suited to the climate is not made a study, yet it is one which I think might be studied with great advantage to the planter. By the general cultivation of sugar in Barbados the best natural grasses seem to be subdued, and are now almost eradicated, whilst the hardiest have survived; and these are of an inferior description.

On the future prospects of the planter I need say but little, since this subject has been publicly inquired into in England. I shall confine myself to recording the opinion I already gave in general terms on the 26th February, 1848, supported by the information which I have collected and transmitted, that the cost of making sugar from free labour is greatly beyond the cost of making it by slave labour, that sugar cultivation cannot yet withstand competition on equal terms with slave labour, and that freedom requires to be nursed with protection.

For Gov. Reid's Despatch. Feb. 26, 1848, *vide* Seventh Report Select Committee, Sugar and Coffee Planting, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, April 6, 1848, No. 215, App., p. 282. Ditto, House of Lords, Sessional Paper, 1848, No. 250, p. 253.

WM. REID, Governor.

Barbados, May 24, 1848.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.
No. 10.

(No. 15.) No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to Earl GREY.

Barbados, April 18, 1848.
(*Received May* 23, 1848.)

MY LORD,

Blue Book, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book for the island of Grenada, for the year 1847, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's Annual Report.

I learned in Grenada that the Metaire system, as applied to the cultivation of the sugar-cane, was increasing, not from choice, but from necessity, by those planters who could not command labour for hire.

The most interesting experiment of the Metaire system which has come under my notice is one making by the Hon. Henry J. Ross, in the cultivation of cocoa in Grenada. Mr. Ross is himself the director of this experiment. He appears to have made his Metaire tenants comprehend that their own interests and his are identical.

By a Return made for me, there appear to be 120 estates, of which 21 have been abandoned, and of the 120 owners or mortgagees, or receivers in possession, 47 are resident, and 73 absent.

I have, &c.,
WM. REID, Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 10. (No. 148.) Enclosure in No. 10.

Government House, Grenada,
April 6, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1847.

Present State and Prospects of the Colony.

Present state and prospects of the Colony.

Having in my Despatches accompanying the statistical reports of the stipendiary magistrates, given, from time to time, my opinions on the social and moral state, and on the prospects of the colony, it will be superfluous for me to repeat those observations. The past year has been one of much depression to the agricultural interest, and the future position of the colony is considered with gloom and apprehension. I should rejoice to be able to report that the exertions of the proprietors were supported by any buoyant hope of future prosperity; but the full effect of the great changes still operating on all pursuits and sources of industry in these colonies, are regarded with great and increasing anxiety. It cannot be expected, under these circumstances, that improvements involving an expenditure of capital should be entered upon.

This island is thinly populated, offering great advantages to the peasantry and persons engaged in manual labour, tending, however, on the other hand, to increase the difficulty of procuring continuous and steady labour, so essential, in a tropical country, for the ordinary operations of the plantation. The difficulties arising from the scarcity and high price of labour during the year, were aggravated by the diminished price of the staple produce in the home markets, and by the monetary crisis, which deprived the planters of the ready means of providing for the punctual payment of the wages of the labourers. The peasantry expect fortnightly or monthly payments of wages, and an irregularity in meetiug this demand very shortly extinguishes the cultivation of an estate.

Legislative Measures.

Legislative Measures.

Few legislative measures were adopted during the year. One, important in moral principle, is an Act for the prevention of offences by insane persons, for establishing a lunatic asylum, and for the better care of paupers in that state. No asylum has yet been provided under the authority of this Act. The magistrates in session are charged with the execution of that duty, and a building was recom-

mended by them to be licensed by me; but on reference to proper medical authorities, I found the site to be unsuitable, and was obliged to withhold my assent. The difficulty of meeting with a suitable building, prevents the immediate selection of an asylum, the nature of such building being of course of great consequence, as violence may be apprehended from persons in that unhappy state. The principle, however, is recognised and must be enforced. In the mean time, there is no other place of security for dangerous lunatics, than the common gaol in St. George's; and in that there are three such persons, one of whom has just been reported to me to be in a fit state to be discharged, and will, in due course, be released. An establishment for one or two lunatics only, requiring officers and servants and therefore considerable outlay, induces the consideration whether that expense may be avoided; and it has occurred to me that an asylum at the joint expense of several colonies, might be more appropriate for the circumstances of the times and more advantageous to the sufferers themselves.

Immigration.

Immigration.

The immigration which has taken place during the past year, has been confined to 438 Portuguese from Madeira, 274 of the number being adults, and the remaining 164 under 14 years of age. The bounty paid in respect of these, amounts to 1186*l.* The number imported by one foreign vessel greatly exceeded the proportion allowed by the Passengers' Act of Great Britain; and I have recommended to the Assembly that the Immigration Act should be amended by withholding the payment of bounty on immigrants arriving in foreign vessels, carrying a larger number than is allowed by the Passengers' Act, and on immigrants arriving from Madeira in vessels clearing from that port from April to September inclusive; as well as the appointment of a medical officer to inspect such immigrants on their arrival, and to prevent the payment of bounty on any who may have been embarked in a known state of disease. My suggestion in reference to the period during which emigration from Madeira into this colony should be prohibited, resulted from the inquiries instituted by me on the receipt of Earl Grey's Despatch, No. 17, St. Vincent, 1st May, 1847; and I annex hereto, the copy of a medical report carefully prepared by Staff Surgeon Connell and two other medical officers whom I selected to inquire into the subject.

The circumstances of the colony do not lead me to suppose that there will be any considerable increase of immigrants at the expense of the Colonial Government or by private enterprise.

Domestic and Commercial.

Domestic and Commercial.

Quantity of Sugar Manufactured since 1828.

Trade and Shipping.

Revenue and Expenditure.

I subjoin an abstract, prepared by the Colonial Secretary, showing the quantity of sugar manufactured in the several parishes in Grenada, in the years 1828, 1829, 1830, 1835, and from the year 1838 to the year 1847; also a return from the Customs relative to the shipping and trade of the colony, and an abstract of the revenue and expenditure of the colony during the last year.

Education.

Education.

I regret I have no favourable report to offer on the subject of education. I have communicated to the Assembly Earl Grey's Despatch on this subject, calling their attention to the strong sense entertained by his Lordship of the importance of spreading the knowledge and use of the English language, by all practicable means, through every class of the population. The efficacy of the infant schools in promoting this object has also been brought by me under the consideration of the Assembly; and, in addressing them, I have earnestly invited their attention to the expediency of increasing the means of instruction, and placing the schools which are established, or assisted by legislative aid, under due inspection. The attendance of children at the schools in the rural districts, is represented as irregular; but the central school in the town of St. George, and the Wesleyan school there, have each a considerable number of scholars.

Considerations arising from the Slave Trade.

Considerations arising from the Slave Trade.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to remark, that it may be hoped that the low price of tropical products will discourage the Slave Trade, and lead to more important consequences than any attempt to prevent that traffic by force; and if these colonies were presently in a position to compete with slave labour, they must be benefited by a policy producing that result. In the mean time, it would

GRENADA.

appear advisable that their produce should be relieved from any burden, except such necessary fiscal duties as the general circumstances of the empire may require to be imposed; for if the price of such produce shall not enable the proprietors to give reasonable wages to their labourers, the consequences, whilst they affect a great moral and national principle, must, as regards these colonies, be deplorable, as no class of persons will, in any country, voluntarily and continuously pursue a laborious and unremunerative occupation.

I have, &c.,

KER B. HAMILTON, Lieut.-Governor.

Sub-Encl. in No. 10.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 10.

Government House, Grenada,
September 24, 1847.

GENTLEMEN,

THE subject of emigration from Madeira having necessarily engaged the attention of Government, and the statistics furnished by different colonies showing a rate of mortality which necessitates the adoption of rules for regulating this emigration, I am desirous of ascertaining the opinion of the medical officers of this colony respecting the months during which such emigration should be permitted. I submit for your consideration a despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Reid, dated 1st of May last, with a report from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to Mr. Secretary Stephen, dated 23rd of April; also abstract of information respecting Portuguese immigrants introduced into this colony from Madeira, from June 1846 to June 1847, and copy of a letter to Mr. Special Justice Romney, dated 1st of September, with information thereon furnished by the medical gentlemen attending the Portuguese in this colony.

It occurs to me that no bounty should be allowed in respect of emigrants leaving Madeira between April and September, inclusively; but I should wish to receive your opinion in respect of the months during which it is desirable that such emigration should be discouraged.

I also request your attention to the facts and statements contained in the documents herewith submitted for your consideration, and invite such observations as your experience may suggest on this subject.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON,
Lieut.-Governor.

J. Connell, Esq., P.M.O.,
The Hon. W. Stephenson,
H. S. Sanders, 3rd W. I. Regt.,
John Browne, Esq.

Medical Office, Grenada,
September 29, 1847.

SIR,

WE have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 24th instant, requesting our opinions as to what months emigration from Madeira to this island should be permitted; and calling our attention to the documents therewith transmitted for consideration, with a view to our furnishing such observations as our experience in the matter might suggest.

Having carefully considered the subject, and also the statements contained in the documents alluded to; it appears to us that, according to the best official authority extant—"Statistical Report, &c. for the West Indies; prepared from the Records of the Army Medical Department, and War Office Returns, 1838,"—as regards Grenada, "the influence of the seasons in producing sickness and mortality, is by no means very strikingly marked, either in the admissions" (into hospital) "or deaths, except in the month of September; that *sickness* has principally prevailed from April to September, and the greatest *mortality* from August to November."

This is the record of British troops taken as an average of 20 years, and seems to us to be the only authentic source from which to draw inferences in this matter; because the immigrants from Madeira have been of too short standing in the island, and too few in number, to enable us to draw any useful conclusions, grounded upon statistics connected with them in Grenada.

As it is not clear to us there are any records to show that one part of the year is essentially more unhealthy than another (for malignant endemics have raged here, as well in those months which are generally termed healthy, as in the others), we concur in the view taken by Mr. Aquart in his report of the 5th instant to your Excellency, viz. that, "from the beginning of December to the end of March, the ground provisions are of better quality; there is not that great abundance of fruit upon which the Portuguese indulge immoderately, and the weather is drier, cooler, and more settled;" and these considerations we believe of importance in the selection of the months most proper for immigration.

We also concur in the report of Mr. Keith to your Excellency, dated the 17th instant, where it is stated, that "July, August, September, and October are more sultry and rainy than the other months," and these months should not therefore be selected for arrivals from Madeira.

These being facts ascertained, carry, in our opinion, more weight towards throwing light as respects the best months for immigration into Grenada, than the supposed in-

fluence of particular months on sickness and mortality; and we would therefore submit, that all things considered, from the *middle* of *November* to the *middle* of *March* would be preferable, on experiment, for the arrival of the Madeira emigrants at this island.

From actual experience, as connected with the individuals under consideration, we can offer no observations; but we submit the following for your Excellency's consideration, drawn from the facts and statements contained in the documents accompanying your Excellency's letter to us on the subject.

It does not clearly appear whether the whole of the arrivals in Grenada from June, 1846, to June, 1847, is contained in the Table compiled by Mr. Romney; but in the absence of such information, and taking that Table as a guide so far as it goes, the following seem the main points deducible therefrom.

That, in certain parishes therein named, the arrivals between the 1st of June, 1846, and the 31st of May, 1847, were	195
Of these died	40
Remaining the 31st May . .	155

This would give a mortality, supposing the entire number to have been one year in the island, of nearly 20 per cent. per annum; but as they were not all for a year in Grenada, the calculation of mortality would exceed 20.

But either would be a very incorrect calculation, where the question is not how many immigrants died in the year in Grenada? but how many died in consequence of immigration into Grenada? For looking into the several reports furnished by the medical gentlemen to your Excellency, it is evident a great proportion of those deaths occurred in consequence of disease brought here from Madeira.

The report of Mr. Romney from St. Patrick's shows, that of ten who died there, six landed diseased; and the fact that these six died "very shortly" after they arrived, tends, in our opinion, to exonerate the climate of Grenada from the onus of death in these particular cases; and, in fact, the ten deaths enumerated should, as regards the real question, be called four.

In the report of Mr. Richard from St. Patrick's, it is stated, that "many of the deaths arose from disease brought along with them." Whether Mr. Richard alludes to the foregoing ten deaths or to others, there is nothing in his report to show; but it is nevertheless clear, that to whatever deaths he alludes they cannot all be attributed to the climate of Grenada.

In Mr. Aguart's report from St. John's, it appears that in 42 arrivals, the first set of 25 came in July; and he says, "several landed sickly, particularly two infants," which two infants died; and these deaths cannot be laid to the account of Grenada. Nor does there appear anything in Mr. Aguart's report to show, that amongst the 42 any further deaths took place.

Mr. Keith from St. Andrews informs us, that "many deaths arose from disease under which they laboured on arrival;" and that "some were located in unhealthy situations."

These people landed in June, 1846, 165 in number; and there was a death from dropsy, which disease the individual laboured under on arrival. There were two deaths from parturition; and these three cannot be considered as caused by this climate.

Of the total deaths, 19 occurred in children, "most of them diseased on arrival;" six of them from hooping-cough, which they brought to Grenada with them, and which is a disease little seen in Grenada. The majority, if not the whole of these 19 deaths, should be thrown out of the calculation of mortality caused by immigration into Grenada.

If data existed to show with accuracy what deaths occurred from disease brought into this island, and from accidents after arrival, on the one hand; and what took place from disease originating in healthy subjects after they landed, on the other; we are of opinion the mortality amongst the Portuguese immigrants from Madeira, in *consequence* of removal to Grenada, would assume a materially diminished aspect to what it does, counting the mortality as a whole; and without the distinction, *which alone* can give the deaths, *bonâ fide, caused by immigration*, either to Grenada or any other colony.

It occurs to us to add, that the immigrants in question landed, for the most part, at the commencement of what is considered the sickly season, and that they came in a *particularly unhealthy year;* the latter adding not a little to the disadvantage of the last year's arrivals. And, finally, we beg to state, that, taking a review of all things connected with this subject, it is our conviction, that if those people were brought into this island *in good health,* and then well lodged, moderately and regularly fed, had a sufficient change of clothing to meet the exigencies of wet weather, with prompt and efficient medical attendance when sick, they would thrive fully as well in the island of Grenada as in that of Madeira; and we would submit for your Excellency's consideration, whether it would not be productive of much good in many ways, were the bounty in future paid for such immigrants only as passed a careful health inspection on landing in this island.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) James Connell, Staff Surgeon,
(Second Class,) P. M. O.
William Stephenson, Surgeon.
Henry Shearly Sanders, Assistant-Surgeon,
3rd W. I. Regiment.

ABSTRACT showing the QUANTITY of SUGAR manufactured in the several Parishes in GRENADA, in the Years 1828, 1829, 1830, 1835, and from the Year 1838 to the Year 1847.

PARISHES.	1825	1829	1830	1835	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
St. George . . .	4,877,357	3,736,059	3,873,386	3,057,066	2,648,608	1,531,485	1,274,136	1,094,741	1,364,486	1,035,601	1,135,010	882,960	855,135	1,759,230
St. John	2,392,864	1,957,374	2,042,272	1,250,102	1,215,192	688,711	631,652	545,588	779,064	540,680	632,804	522,980	727,280	823,200
St. Mark	1,805,772	1,605,996	1,486,042	1,296,348	733,587	438,768	498,810	652,066	709,300	565,844	464,543	320,540	742,056	752,508
St. Patrick . . .	8,445,531	7,665,675	6,376,369	6,192,276	5,712,712	4,037,344	3,323,496	3,210,104	3,548,754	3,367,623	2,695,469	2,703,400	3,625,003	4,133,040
St. Andrew . . .	9,331,462	7,884,113	7,277,830	4,348,349	4,956,352	4,453,814	3,442,046	2,922,977	3,077,617	3,319,953	2,917,680	2,518,349	2,596,051	3,089,932
St. David	2,747,401	2,104,508	2,016,795	2,169,005	2,053,658	1,387,391	804,780	855,824	737,251	1,059,352	1,178,907	928,842	738,237	1,257,822
Carriacou	2,009,200	1,376,325	1,850,620	2,154,554	1,343,140	894,511	709,766	623,131	169,700	258,520	538,432	570,760	179,110	971,120
Total . .	31,609,587	26,330,050	24,923,314	20,467,700	18,663,249	13,432,024	10,684,686	9,904,431	10,386,172	10,147,573	9,562,845	8,447,831	9,462,872	12,786,852

A true Abstract taken from the Returns remaining in the Office of the Public Treasurer of Grenada, examined therewith by OUSLEY ROWLEY,
Grenada, March 31, 1848. Colonial Secretary.

ACCOUNT of the NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS which entered Inwards and Cleared Outwards, at the Port of St. George, Grenada, during the Year ended 5th January, 1848, distinguishing the Countries to which they belonged, and the Number and Tonnage of Vessels importing Coals for the use of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Countries to which the Vessels belonged.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
BRITISH VESSELS.				
Ships importing Coals for the use of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service.	26	6,954	..	..
BRITISH VESSELS				
From and to the United Kingdom and British Possessions, Foreign States, and their Possessions.	325	12,718	388	21,097
FOREIGN VESSELS, viz.,				
Spain	1	115	1	115
Sweden	5	90	5	90
United States	19	3,137	19	3,092
Columbia.	30	1,351	30	1,341
Total	406	24,365	443	25,735

The Number and Tonnage of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Steamers and Schooners is not included in this account, although they occasionally import and export portions of Cargo.

Custom-house, Grenada, 17th March, 1848. THOMAS HOLMES, Collector.

ACCOUNT of the estimated VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the three Years ending 5th January, 1848.

Years.	Estimated Value of Imports.		Total.	Estimated Value of Exports.		Total.
	In British Vessels.	In Foreign Vessels.		In British Vessels.	In Foreign Vessels.	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1845	133,445 1 6	21,563 11 10	155,008 13 4	121,040 14 8	401 5 10	121,442 0 6
1846	116,752 14 9	24,940 4 4	141,692 19 1	130,535 16 8	1,539 9 0	132,075 5 8
1847	117,279 16 11	24,780 1 9	142,059 18 8	198,261 17 4	1,448 1 4	199,709 18 8
	367,477 13 2	71,283 17 11	438,761 11 1	449,838 8 8	3,388 16 2	453,227 4 10

The value of goods imported and exported in the Royal Mail Steamers is not included in this Return.

THOMAS HOLMES, Collector.

Custom-house, Grenada, 17th March, 1848.

ABSTRACT of REVENUE, GRENADA, 1847.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance in hand, 1st January		4,001 4 0
Licences to retail spirit	580 0 0	
Licences to Hucksters	110 10 0	
Licences to Auctioneers	100 0 0	
Licences for boats and canoes	61 12 8	
Market fees	158 13 1	
Rent of Fish House, St. George's	23 2 0	
Fees collected by magistrates	189 11 10	
Fines imposed by the Supreme Court of Judicature	22 0 0	
Fines imposed by Magistrates	226 18 8	
Public taxes on horses and houses	1,498 17 6	
Water tax and dues	216 5 8	
Soldiers' subsistence money, under the Mutiny Acts	47 10 0	
Nine-tenths of duties from Her Majesty's Customs	1,784 2 6	
Import duties	5,247 6 7	
Export duties	2,707 12 3	
Duty on rum consumed	2,901 15 9	
From West India Bank, on account of immigration money deposited	2,994 6 1	
		18,870 4 7
Total revenue		22,871 8 7

Treasurer's Office, 3rd April, 1848. (Signed) MATTHEW DAVIES, Public Treasurer.

ABSTRACT of EXPENDITURE, GRENADA, 1847.

	£ s. d.
Clergy, clerks, and organist	2,298 16 0
Public officers	4,621 3 10
Police	2,932 12 11
Annuitants	112 0 0
Pension to late Chief Justice	250 0 0
Public printing	126 13 4
Maintenance of prisoners in gaols and cages	249 14 7
Repairs of the Grand Etang and Noel's Hill Roads	248 2 0
Repairs of the Belvidere-road, across to the Grand Etang	127 10 0
Repairs of public roads throughout the colony	2,145 9 2
Interment of paupers	67 7 6
Executing Coroner's Warrants in parishes	13 15 0
Arrears, per money bill of 1846	41 0 0
Debts established against the public, for 1846	263 13 1
Repairs of the water-works	34 9 8
Stationery for the magistrates	15 14 10
Cleaning the burial grounds	15 0 0
Votes in aid of schools	217 10 0
Votes, per money bill	278 13 0
Votes and Warrant of Lieut.-Governor	1,527 18 11
Drawback duties	56 7 9
Commission to Officers of Customs	36 10 5
Apprehension of a prisoner	13 10 10
Deposit in West India Bank	1,443 14 9
Bounty on immigrants	1,186 0 0
Total Expenditure	18,323 7 7

Treasurer's Office, 3rd April, 1848. (Signed) MATTHEW DAVIES, Public Treasurer.

TOBAGO.

No. 11.

TOBAGO.

(No. 17.) No. 11.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Reid to Earl Grey.

Barbados, May 12, 1848.
(*Received June* 21, 1848.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book for Tobago, for the year 1847, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor's annual Report.

Blue Book, 1847.

24th April, 1848.

The interests of all classes in Tobago, in my opinion, are suffering from a want of sufficient provision being made for carrying on the public service of the island.

In this Report the Lieutenant-Governor suggests that municipal powers should be given to the inhabitants of Scarborough and its suburbs. Although that town is very small, I am inclined to think that there would be advantage in conferring some limited power of this kind to the inhabitants of the town.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. REID, Governor.

Encl. in No. 11.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Government House, Tobago,
April 24, 1848.

Sir,

In transmitting to your Excellency the Blue Book in duplicate for the year 1847, I beg to observe, that the completion of the returns has been considerably retarded in consequence of my having had to make an application to the Colonial Office for a further supply of blank sheets, those previously received having been rendered unserviceable from the effects of the hurricane last autumn, which damaged all the papers in my office.

Taxes.

Having fully explained in former reports the manner in which the revenue in Tobago is raised, I shall merely remark, under the head of taxation, that the import, tonnage, and lighthouse dues yielded this year the sum of 3612*l.* 14*s.* These being our only fixed taxes, we had a large deficiency to provide for under a "Bill of Supply;" first, by the imposition of rates and assessments on incomes, houses, horses, mules, asses, guns, boats, wholesale merchants, and shopkeepers; these rates being generally the same in each annual "Levy Bill; and secondly, by a tax upon the staple produce of the colony, so regulated as to make up the estimated difference between the total expenditure and the amount derived from all other sources of taxation. The rate of this export tax upon produce consequently varies each year, and is usually fixed at from 7*s.* to 15*s.* per hogshead of sugar, and proportionally upon rum and molasses.

From this mode of collecting the revenue it will be readily seen, that the gross income of the island can never be received as a correct indication of either the agricultural or commercial progress of the colony, to ascertain either of which it is only requisite, in the one case, to compare the quantity of produce annually shipped, and in the other, the amount of duties collected under the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* import tax; thus, in the year 1846, the island exported only 2880 hogsheads of sugar, whilst, in the year 1847, there were shipped 4567, being an increase of 1687 hogsheads. The colonial import duties of 1846 amounted to 3154*l.*, and in 1847 they only yielded 2903*l.*, showing a decrease of 251*l.*; but the tonnage dues of 1847 giving an increase of 158*l.*, leaves a deficiency of revenue under these heads collectively of only 93*l.*

I am aware there are many objections to be urged in political economy against indirect taxation, but in Tobago it is not an unpopular method of raising the revenue; on the contrary, it gives far less dissatisfaction than that caused by levies under the annual Supply Bill, which give rise to numerous complaints and grievances. I should be glad to see the whole of these assessments (some of which are oppressive) abolished, and the revenue raised alto-

gether by well-regulated import and export duties, an excise on spirits (manufactured and sold in the island), and a moderate land-tax; this last so framed as to include small proprietors of ground who have withdrawn from regular occupation as daily labourers.

Income and Expenditure.

In making a comparative yearly statement, it is necessary to pass over 1846, in which year no supplies were granted, and its contingent expenses became mixed up with the money votes of 1847. I shall, therefore, refer back to the year 1845, the income of which amounted to 8495*l.*, and the expenditure to 8528*l.*, pretty nearly balancing each other. The expenditure of 1847 was 9855*l.*, but it was necessary to raise only 7873*l.*, there being in the island chest a sum equal to the difference arising out of the unappropriated monies collected in 1846.

It may naturally be surmised, from this statement, that our finances are in a prosperous condition; but this is not so, as the contingent expenses of 1847 and the salaries of 1848 are not yet provided for; and as nearly the whole of the permanent revenue is already appropriated by law, we may expect to find at the close of the year 1848 an empty exchequer to meet the various demands of the public creditors. Unless, therefore, a "Levy Bill" be passed in the course of the present session, so as gradually to lighten the public debt, the effects of this dilatory legislation will be felt severely, by all classes of the community, whenever it becomes imperative to pay off arrears by the imposition of heavy assessments upon incomes, and the other unpopular and vexatious sources of taxation enumerated in the "Bill of Supply."

Public Works.

The only public works in progress comprise the rebuilding of the barracks and the repairs of Government House, the Court House, and Gaol, all of which received considerable damage by the hurricane. The tank in course of building in the Market Square of Scarborough advances but slowly, and the town's people complain much of the annual assessments on their property for its construction. A Bill for the repeal of the "Act" under which these assessments are made was introduced into and passed by the House of Assembly, but was rejected by the Legislative Council.

I think it would be an improvement were matters of this kind, and all other municipal reforms in the larger towns, left to the householders themselves, without being subject to the interference of the legislative bodies; for which reason I would give to the town of Scarborough and suburbs an Act of Incorporation, authorising the inhabitants to elect periodically local administrative authorities, possessing the usual powers of framing police regulations for the suppression of vagrancy and disorderly conduct within the precincts of the borough; for the removal of nuisances; the supply of water; clearing the streets and thoroughfares when encroached upon or closed up, and for promoting such sanitary regulations as would tend to increase the healthiness of the town and general comforts of the inhabitants, all of which could readily be effected without the more tedious process of legislative enactments.

Legislative.

An "Act" has recently been passed by the local Legislature (not yet assented to by the Crown) for the summary punishment by two justices of the peace of petty thefts under the value of 4*l.* Besides imprisonment, not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, the magistrates are empowered in certain cases to award restitution to the amount of the value of the articles stolen, with costs. In this respect the law is peculiarly adapted to suit the feelings of our peasantry, who are seldom satisfied with the conviction and punishment of the offender, unless they obtain the more substantial redress of getting back the value of their goods, when restitution cannot be made of the property itself; and as this could not be done under the old law, they were often disposed to resort to illegal measures for effecting that object. I wish a somewhat similar enactment were passed to afford compensation to the injured party in cases of assault. His honour the Chief Justice, when commenting lately on this petty theft "Act," in an excellent address to the grand jury, whilst fully admitting the utility of the measure, dwelt with much stress on its infringement of the Great Charter; and forcibly reminded the magistracy of the necessity of a cautious and faithful exercise of the power now vested in them, by the substitution of summary jurisdiction for trial by jury.

Wages.

Some little sensation was created a few months ago by an attempt being made upon several estates to reduce the daily rate of wages. The experiment was, however, relinquished on account of the opposition it met with.

TOBAGO.

The planters, I think, err by endeavouring to establish a uniform rate of wages throughout the island, which is impossible to effect in a country where so much depends upon locality, the density of the immediate population, and the nature and character of the soil. Two hours' additional daily labour, or an increase to the usual daily task (which the peasant can well afford to give), would as effectually meet the views of he planter, and at the same time avoid producing a feeling of dissatisfaction and irritation, to which every one is liable, upon a reduction of income derived from personal exertion.

An opinion very generally prevailed after emancipation that, in order to secure the continuous services of the field negro, it was expedient to foster a taste for articles of luxury, and, unfortunately, encouragement was given to the wearing of fine apparel rather than to acquiring the more profitable comforts and conveniences of civilized life. The peasantry of the West Indies, unlike those of Europe, have no distinctive dress as a class; and upon Sundays and feast-days the employer and labourer are habited much alike. This is carried not unfrequently to an extravagant length; and until the labourer can be satisfied to adopt a cheaper holiday costume, and one more suited to his station and pursuits, I see little chance of the planter establishing a decreased rate of wages.

A scientific attention in the mixing of composts, and a judicious manuring of the soil, followed up by a proper system of green crop dressings, and a more condensed cultivation in this island, would do much to effect a decrease in the expenses of an estate, and secure an improved quality of cane, the yielding from which would amply repay the trouble.

Commitments.

In the following return, the commitments in the year 1847 present a favourable contrast with those of the previous year; but I cannot disguise from myself that crime in Tobago is of serious magnitude as compared with the commission of offences in the neighbouring colonies, and I think it my duty to draw the attention of your Excellency to this subject.

RETURN of COMMITMENTS in the Years 1846 and 1847.

Offences.	1846			1847			Decrease.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Felonies . . .	28	3	31	21	3	24	7
Thefts	54	12	66	14	7	21	45
Misdemeanours . .	170	23	193	92	11	103	90
Debt	27	3	30	3	4	7	23
	279	41	320	130	25	155	165

I am very much disposed to believe that our inability to carry into effect sentences of transportation, and the inadequacy of any substitute for that punishment, to a great extent does away with the terrors of the criminal court, and deprives us of the wholesome influence of example. Separation from his home and associates has a powerful effect upon the mind of the negro, and no enactment would more effectually tend to check the commission of crime, or be received as a greater boon by the smaller West India colonies, than the introduction of a Government measure to enable us to transport our felons to Bermuda, and relieve the gaols of our notorious criminals. An "Act" is about to be introduced by the Chief Justice to assign convicts to sugar plantations during their term of sentence, as practised in the Australian Penal settlements; but, with every wish for the success of this or any other measure for the prevention of heavy offences, I fear that nothing short of actual banishment, in the incomplete state of our prison discipline, will have the desired effect.

Immigration.

In order to supply the deficiency of labour, a colonial bounty of 3*l.* sterling was given for every immigrant entering into a contract of service for 12 months, and 600 were obtained under this regulation from Barbados. This speculation was, in my opinion, eminently successful, not so much on account of the gain in numbers as from the moral effect it appeared to have upon our native peasantry, who viewed with no little apprehension the arrival of so many competitors in the labour market; and many who had capriciously withdrawn their services, or from indolence had neglected steady and continuous labour, returned to their former engagements.

Immigration, as an appliance to effect a reduction in the price of labour, must, to ensure success, be introduced simultaneously and to a large extent. The expense of accomplishing this from Africa, at the cost of the colony, would more than counterbalance the benefit expected from it; for besides the charges of transit, it would be necessary (if it be determined to act upon a large scale) that provision should also be made for the religious and moral improvement of the immigrant. The clergy have already sufficient occupation, and our scholastic institutions are barely adequate to afford instruction to the rising generation. Under these circumstances, the planters ought at present to limit their application for assistance to the occasional introduction of liberated Africans, which would suffice, as already seen, to stimulate the Creole peasant to exertion, and remind them that other means are at command, to which the planter can resort, to counteract their unsteady habits.

Education.

Education has been considerably retarded, in consequence of the injury sustained by the schools in October last: some were entirely blown down, and others so much damaged as to require thorough repair. Great exertions have been made by the clergy to reconstruct them. The Wesleyans have already rebuilt a chapel and schoolhouse; the Moravian Mission has received a handsome donation from the parent society for the same purpose; and his Lordship the bishop of the diocese has at his disposal a considerable sum, which, with a grant of 300*l.* from the local legislature, will go far to replace the churches and schools of the episcopal establishment.

The free-school in the town of Scarborough is about to be remodelled; and I hope to have established, in addition to the objects for which it was originally instituted, a classical seminary for the more liberal education of the upper classes of society, who at present cannot obtain this advantage without the expense and inconvenience of a voyage to England or Barbados. I am willing to attribute the backwardness of some of our primary schools of instruction as compared with others to the effects of the late storm, which was felt more severely in some districts than in others; but henceforth I shall notice the progress of educational improvement from the year 1848; and as public attention in Tobago has been directed with some success to this subject, I have reason to anticipate the most favourable results.

Grants of Land.

It will be seen from the return herewith annexed, that 57,408 acres of land (comprising nearly the whole island) were sold by Commissioners appointed by the Crown in the year 1765 for the sum of 154,058*l.* 19*s.*, in allotments varying from 50 to 500 acres. The principal conditions of sale were, that no person should purchase for himself more than 500 acres, 20 per cent. of the whole purchase money to be paid down, and 6*d.* per acre to cover the expense of surveying; that within 12 months from the date of grant the purchaser should be bound to clear, at the rate of 5 acres in the 100, until one-half of the land should be cleared, under a penalty of 5*l.* sterling per annum: the purchaser was also required to pay an annual quit-rent of 6*d.* per cleared acre.

Not more than 6000 or 7000 acres of land have been cleared, but in no instance, I believe, has the Crown enforced the penalty. The names of the original purchasers, and the number of acres sold to each, are on record, and the whole of the money was paid over to the Commissioners; but whether the amount realized was expended upon the colony, or carried to the general credit of the mother country, does not appear.

Three chains round the coast were reserved for forts, and besides a few suburban allotments there now only remain to be disposed of some hundreds of acres on the summit of the main ridge, which, being almost inaccessible, are of little value. I forward this information because colonization has recently engaged much public attention, and as the sale of land by Government in this island seems to have been successful and conducted upon sound principles.

Condition of Agriculture.

The injured sugar works have been so far put into repair as to ensure the saving of the present crop, and most of the labourers' dwellings have been repaired or reconstructed on a reduced scale; and although the yielding of the cane is not so abundant as at one time might have been expected, the country, generally, is recovering from the scathing effect of the wind, which, destroying the verdure of the island, and stripping bare the leaves from the forest trees, gave to the woods a wintry aspect most unnatural in these latitudes.

The anxiety of the peasantry to possess independent holdings continues

TOBAGO.

unabated; and as facility is given them in all parts of the island either to purchase or rent land, I see every prospect of Tobago possessing, at no distant day, a thriving middle class of farmers.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) L. GRÆME, Lieut.-Governor.

RETURN of LAND sold by the COMMISSIONERS for the CROWN between the Years 1765 and 1771.

Years.	Acres.	——	Average.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1765	4,000	4,030 0 0	1 0 1¾
1766	11,096	11,226 0 0	1 0 2
1767	14,975	21,853 15 0	1 9 2
1768	4,632	7,125 18 0	1 10 4
1769	5,183	16,457 6 0	2 15 0
1770	9,362	55,045 0 0	5 17 7
1771	8,160	38,321 0 0	4 13 11
	57,408	154,058 19 0	2 13 8

5th May, 1848. (Certified) JOHN THORNTON, Colonial Secretary.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from EARL GREY to Governor REID.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
July 25, 1848.
(*Received August* 24, 1848.)

MY LORD,

Blue Book for 1847.
Annual Report.

HAVING only received the Blue Book and Annual Report from St. Vincent this day, I transmit it at once to your Lordship.

It has, I regret to say, been delayed owing to the sickness of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Lieut.-Governor to Governor, July 15, 1848, with one Enclosure.

I have, &c.,
WILLIAM REID, Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Encl. in No. 12.

St. Vincent, Government House,
July 15, 1848.

SIR,

Blue Book, two copies.
Colonial Secretary, March 22, 1848.
Annual Report.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for 1847, in duplicate, together with a letter in reference to it from the Colonial Secretary, and my "Annual Report."

2. Your Excellency will observe from the date of the Colonial Secretary's letter that the extreme delay which has taken place in the despatch of these documents is in no way to be attributed to him.

3. It has been caused by my having been seized by severe indisposition shortly after the Blue Book was placed in my hands, which incapacitated me from drawing up my "Report" upon it for a period of two months.

4. The Colonial Secretary is doubtful whether he is required to furnish for transmission more than two copies of the Blue Book.

5. By the "Instructions" on the first page, he is directed to supply five copies in all, and the doubt is whether by the word "Governor" is not meant Lieut.-Governor.

6. The Secretary does not object to furnish another or sixth copy, and will

do so if your Excellency requires, but wishes to represent that by page 60, section 5 of the Colonial Regulations, only five copies are required.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN CAMPBELL, Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbados,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. Vincent,
March 22, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for this colony for the year 1847, and trust that it will, in every respect, meet with the approbation of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, his Excellency the Governor-General, and yourself.

I have taken every means in my power to procure the returns required for this service, and have been at great personal pains in forwarding blank forms to all such of the officers as are called on to make returns for the first time.

I have, as far as I have been able, obtained and inserted the revenue and expenditure of all the towns in this island except Layon. I have copied the return of the town wardens of Layon.

I observed in the Blue Book for Barbados for the year 1846, with a perusal of which I was kindly favoured by his Excellency the Governor-General on his last visit here, that the comparative yearly statement of the revenue into the three heads of "Fixed," "Incidental," and "Receipts in aid of Revenue;" I have preferred the system heretofore adopted in this island of giving each item under a separate head, which I trust will meet approval.

I have, under the head "Legislation" given shortly, and to the best of my judgment, the substance of each Act taken from the marginal notes, and where those are not sufficiently full by further note.

The Council, Assembly, and Civil Establishment are made up as usual.

The Pension List, with the exception of 25*l.* 10*s.*, is a remnant of the system of slavery, as may be there seen.

The return of Population is taken from the Census of 1844.

There are no means by which I can ascertain the actual number of square miles in each parish, but I have given the estimated number of acres in cultivation.

I have applied to the heads of all the schools and the clergymen of each parish for the returns of schools, and have given in the returns, as sent in, in answer to my applications.

I have taken from the "Gazette" of the island, which is considered the best authority, the course of exchange in every month; the coins are also given.

I regret my inability to furnish a return of the amount of coin in circulation, and have given my reasons.

I also regret that I have been unable to arrive at the amount of paper currency in circulation; I have applied to the managers of the two banks in this colony, and have inserted the answer of Mr. Wight at page 161. I have received no answer from the manager of the West India Bank.

The imports and exports are taken from the returns sent into me by the Customs.

It will be observed that the amount of produce manufactured in the year 1846–47 has exceeded the amount made in any other year since the abolition of slavery.

There are no manufactures save sugar and arrowroot.

The grant of land to Mr. Drape bears date as far back as 2nd March, 1841, and is the grant of a piece of land escheated, and put up to public sale on the 2nd February in the same year, when Mr. Drape became the purchaser.

The report of gaols and prisons is from the return sent in by the provost marshal.

There may be some imperfections in the Blue Book as now forwarded, but these, I trust, will be ascribed to any source but that of negligence, as your Excellency well knows the difficulty of this service in obtaining returns, and especially correct ones, from the numerous parties here. The originals of

ST. VINCENT.

several of the returns inserted in this book were not sent to my office until the present month of March, and many were sent in the latter end of February.

I may, I am convinced, with confidence add that the Blue Book now forwarded, on a careful comparison with those of former years from this and the neighbouring islands, will be found to be, at least, in no particular inferior to any.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. W. D. BERESFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Sir John Campbell, Bart.,
Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) E. Row. Forman,
Lieut. 88th Regt., and P. Sec.

Annual Report accompanying Blue Book of 1847.

The year 1847 was, upon the whole, marked by internal circumstances more favourable to this colony than those of the years which, for a considerable period, had preceded.

A large increase of the crop is observable over that of 1846, and, indeed, the amount of produce exceeded what has been obtained, in any one season, since the period of emancipation. Although, I believe that peculiarly genial weather exercised a very great influence in causing this happy result, it is not to be overlooked that much of it is to be attributed to the praiseworthy exertions of the planters, and also to an improvement in the habits of the labouring population.

During the previous year, and also in the course of 1847, immigrants to the number of about 2000 were introduced from the island of Madeira. This importation was effected by an Act granting a bounty from surplus funds in the Treasury, and, subsequently, continued under an Act of the Legislature by which a revenue has been raised, chiefly, by means of a tax of 6*d.* per gallon upon rum consumed in the colony, and appropriated to defray a portion of its expense; the remaining portion, about one-half, having been paid by the parties who hired the immigrants.

So considerable an addition to the agricultural labourers produced a sensible effect upon the cultivation, but, in addition to the direct influence, it is generally believed that a stimulus was thereby given to the native population, which induced habits of somewhat more steady industry than they formerly evinced.

Attention had been directed to improvements, both in the culture and manufacture of the sugar-cane, which, stimulated by the operation of an agricultural society, resulted in many judicious and successful experiments. Among these may be mentioned the more luxuriant growth of the cane from the prior introduction of guano, and from the continued application of artificial manure; the former substance has been largely applied with satisfactory effect. In the manufacture of the sugar, the processes derived from scientific investigation had in some measure begun to be applied, and the rude and imperfect method which prevailed, almost without variation, since the establishment of the colony, had somewhat yielded to increasing knowledge and the spirit of enterprise. On one or two estates vacuum pans had already been erected, and on another a most complete and admirable machinery has this year been put into operation, consisting of filterers, vacuum pan, &c., by the agency of which sugar of a superior quality is produced.

Imports and Exports.

All these causes have combined to swell the produce of 1847, and by reference to the Blue Book a corresponding increase will be seen in the value both of imports and exports.

In 1847 . .	Imports	£185,807
In 1846 . .	,, ...	170,958
	Excess in favour of 1847 . . .	£ 14,849

Under the head of Exports a still more favourable statement is exhibited.

In 1847 . .	Exports	£295,201
In 1846 . .	,, ...	246,095
	Excess in favour of 1847. . .	£49,106

It thus appears that the exports have had an increase somewhat more than double in proportion to that of the imports, as an equal ratio would produce only 23,591*l.* The exports have at all times found their way, almost exclusively, to Great Britain; but it is worthy of observation that, in the present case, while there is a large encrease upon the total of imports, there has been a considerable falling off in those from all foreign states. Thus, in a comparatively prosperous year, this colony has, viewing its limited means, afforded an extended market for British goods, as well as employment for British shipping, which may be looked upon as of some value.

Shipping Inwards.

It is also to be remarked that while the total amount of tonnage in 1846

was	27,041	tons.
it was, in 1847, only	24,064	,,
Showing an excess in favour of 1846 of	2,977	,,
yet the tonnage of British ships having been, in 1847 .	9,402	tons.
and in 1846 .	8,661	,,
Shows an excess in favour of 1847 of . . .	741	,,

Revenue and Expenditure.

The expenditure exceeded the amount of revenue actually collected within the year by a sum of 1589*l.* In explanation of this, it is to be remarked that the Repeal of the Customs Duties, which took effect on the 2nd day of October, depriving the Treasury of three months' revenue from that source. It has been proposed to remedy the deficiency thereby occasioned by the imposition of additional import duties. The decrease in the imports from the American United States and from British America also exercised an unfavourable influence upon the revenue, because the articles, such as lumber, shingles, &c., which usually form the imports from these countries, are subject to higher duties than goods from Britain, on the greater number of which low *ad valorem* duties are imposed. The tax upon produce is fixed annually, and thus the revenue did not benefit in a degree commensurate with the increased production, the lower prices to which the articles had fallen having caused the Legislature to declare a lower rate of value, and also a lower rate of *ad valorem* taxation. From this arose, that notwithstanding the greatly superior crops, the proceeds of the tax on produce exceeded that of 1846 by only 339*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* It is worthy of remark that, comparatively, a large increase took place in the revenue from the sources which may be regarded as indicating the prosperity and advancement of the native population; for instance, freeholds and leaseholds produced in

1847 .	£575	1	5
1846 .	276	4	5
Excess in favour, 1847 .	£298	17	0

Although the expenditure of 1847 went somewhat beyond the revenue, it was less than that of 1846, setting aside the payment for immigration in both years, which may be regarded as casual and extraneous.

The Expenditure

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
of 1846 amounted to . .	21,942	13	4
of 1847 amounted to . .	20,224	2	10
Decrease in favour of 1847	£1,718	10	6

This reduction was effected without in any degree interfering with or impairing those institutions which are of the most vital importance to the welfare of

ST. VINCENT.

the community; on the contrary, to the important object of education an additional sum of 354*l.* 17*s.* was allowed.

The saving was effected solely by a stricter economy and supervision on the part of the Committee of Council and Assembly on public accounts, from which has resulted a reduction, under the heads of "Public Orders and Casualities," amounting to no less than 1819*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

Local Revenues.

This, I believe, is the first time that a detailed account has been given in the Blue Book, of the revenues and expenditures of the different towns in the colony. It is not so complete as may be wished, but seems to show that no excessive burthens are imposed upon the inhabitants, and that the funds levied are expended for their benefit and comfort. A commodious building, intended for a market-house, referred to in Blue Book, page 62, is in a state of advancement in Kingstown, being roofed in, but its further progress has, in the mean time, been arrested from want of funds. When it comes into use an increase to the revenue of the town is to be expected. This is highly desirable, as hitherto the town funds have been hardly more than sufficient to defray the expense incurred in maintaining ordinary cleanliness, and do not permit any improvements, of which many are required. The erection of a wharf is an improvement so obvious as to occasion surprise that it has not long ago been carried into effect. There are great natural facilities for such an undertaking; it would prove highly advantageous to the community at large, and might be justly expected to realize a considerable income for the benefit of the town. The subject has been urged upon the consideration of the Legislature, but, hitherto, no steps have been taken on its behalf.

Military Expenditure.

By an Act passed on the 28th July, 1845, a corps of militia is established, to consist of 55 officers and 500 privates, including cavalry and artillery, the infantry to be armed and clothed as riflemen, and called a rifle corps. This Act was passed previous to my arrival, and, shortly subsequent, a ballot took place, and musters were held at the five different stations appointed by the Act. At these I was present, and found them better attended than I expected. Immediately thereafter it was discovered that the Act was imperfect, and that among other defects it contained no power to compel the men to attend. It was therefore submitted to the Council and Assembly for amendment, but has been suffered to lie over without any steps having been taken towards this object.

Difficulties have been felt arising from the comparatively impoverished state of the colony, which have been increased by the arrival of the arms, as the price is found to be much higher than was anticipated. At the time these arms were ordered the Treasury contained a surplus, but a delay of more than a year and a-half occurring in their arrival, it melted away in unavoidable expenses, leaving but little hope of its being replaced, unless under more favourable circumstances in the affairs of the colony. By the Act it was provided that the arms and accoutrements should, in the first place, be paid for from the Treasury, and that the invoice price should be charged to each militia man as he received them. The first provision cannot now be implemented, and it is more than doubtful whether it will be proper to call upon each man who may be drawn in the ballot to pay so considerable a sum as from 4*l.* to 5*l.*, to which his arms, clothing, and accoutrements will amount. At the same time it is to be regretted that the project for the formation of a militia should fall to the ground. Such a force, well organized, would, I consider, in addition to furthering the the important objects of maintaining internal tranquillity and repelling foreign agression, be of essential service in keeping alive the patriotic feelings of the people, and also in promoting social union. It is, I believe, in the contemplation of the Legislature to petition for a grant of the arms and accoutrements. If this be not obtained, or at least a large abatement of the price, no other course will be open but to return them, and to abandon for the present all idea of a militia.

Legislation.

Several important enactments were passed by the Legislature during the year 1847. The two of 1st January, regulating the traffic in spirituous liquors, were expected to produce most beneficial results, and their working, at least that of the former, has hitherto, in a great measure, justified the anticipation. By it a duty of 6*d.* a gallon is imposed upon all rum consumed in the colony, the proceeds of which, amounting to 998*l.* 18*s.*, was devoted to immigration. A tax of 6*d.* may seem low upon such an article as rum, the wholesale price of which is about 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, being no more than 20 per cent. on its value, but it is considered advisable to present no inducement to smuggling, for which the numerous islands forming this Government, from the nature of their coasts, afford great facilities. This duty of 6*d.* a gallon was imposed chiefly with reference to purposes of revenue, and was not expected, by itself, to have much effect in lessening the consumption of ardent spirits; but the Act contains a clause imposing a heavy penalty upon any proprietor or attorney who gives, by way of gratuity, or for labour done, any rum or spirituous liquors, or any mixture thereof to any labour. It was formerly, as is well known, the invariable practice to give allowances of rum to the labourers, and not unfrequently to bribe them by extra rations. That this abuse should have been permitted to exist so long is a matter of surprise; but having, as it were, become a confirmed habit, it is not so surprising that prejudice was enlisted in its favour, and that expedients have been attempted to evade the provisions of the law against it. Apprehensions were entertained that the labourers would not work if they did not receive their rum, which, however, experience has proved to be unfounded, as an equivalent in money is received with equal if not more satisfaction. No doubt a portion of this money is laid out in the purchase of rum, but still the temptation to drink is not so strongly put forward, and the well known desire of the people to accumulate Acts as an addititional safeguard. Practically, from all the information I have obtained, the enactment works well; it has caused no dissatisfaction or indisposition to labour, and intemperance is undoubtedly decreasing.

The other Act passed on 1st January is intended to regulate the granting of licences for the sales of wines and spirits; under it any number of licences may be granted, either in town or in country, upon payment of certain sums which are much reduced from their previous amount. As regards the revenue, the result has been slightly unfavourable, for although many more licences were given out than in the previous year, the produce of 1846 was £ 1203 17 7

1847 was 1164 3 4

Decrease in 1847 £ 39 14 3

It seems to me that the only argument in favour of granting an unlimited number of licences at a low rate is to be derived from the tendency of such a measure to add to the public revenue, and that where such a result does not ensue its evil is unmitigated.

A large proportion of the estates have taken out licences and established rum shops, thereby, I should apprehend, in some measure obviating the good effects produced by the prevention of spirits being given as a gratuity. The profits derived from such a source cannot for a moment be put in competition with the advantage of encouraging sober habits among the people, were the subject to be ever regarded in no higher than an economic point of view. It is alleged that these estates' rum-shops are requisite, in order to prevent the labourers from wandering to a distance for the purpose of procuring spirits, and thereby causing a loss of time and work. This is an evil which, I think, would soon cure itself, as increased difficulty and trouble in procuring the gratification will, doubtless, gradually weaken and at length extinguish the desire for it. At all events it is an experiment worthy of a patient trial. The acknowledged decrease of intemperance has probably drawn attention from the encouragement given to that vice by legalizing the unlimited issue of licences at a low rate, but I entertain hopes that a modification, at least, of the enactment in question will at no distant period be obtained. The practice of giving rum on the estates being entirely discontinued, and licences issued with discrimination, and only in localities where houses seem required for the purposes of ordinary re-

ST. VINCENT.

freshment, it may be expected that drunkenness, a vice now rare, will soon become extinct, at least among the rural population.

On the 27th January an Act was passed for promoting and encouraging the immigration of labourers, and for regulating contracts to be entered into with them. During the preceding year immigrants, to the number of , had been introduced from the island of Madeira under a previous Act, the provisions of which were found to be unsatisfactory. Contracts could be formed for one year only; and this, experience showed, was too short a period to hold out the prospects of a fair remuneration to the planter for the expense of importation. With the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, this period was, by this Act, extended to three years; and it provides that a bounty of 4*l.* from the public treasury shall be paid on the importation of every adult immigrant from any place, the British West Indies excepted, such immigrants to be under a valid contract of service for three years; three-fourths of the above bounty payable when the contract shall be for a period between three years and twelve months, and one-third when the contract shall be for only six months. The adult age is taken at 15, and no one under that age is permitted to come under contract. Practically all the engagements have been made for two years; and thus the bounty paid has been 3*l.* for each adult, while the passage-money from Madeira (whence all the immigrants have come) is about 7*l.* 10*s.*; thus leaving 4*l.* 10*s.* to be paid by the employer. Besides this, as most of these people come in families, the planters have borne the whole expense of those under 15 years of age, which may be stated at an average of 3*l.* per head. The children do, however, I believe, almost universally labour upon the estates along with their parents and relatives, and are found useful in weeding and other light work. Many other provisions are introduced into this Act, which generally are found to work well, and to guard in an equitable manner the interests both of the immigrants and of the planters. One of the most important and well devised is that by which Commissions are to be issued from time to time, for the purpose of examining into and reporting upon the eligibility of each estate, on the score of salubrity, as a location for immigrants under their first contract. This has been strictly carried out, and no one is permitted to place a newly-arrived immigrant upon an estate which has been reported as unhealthy.

On the 20th December an Act was passed to alter and amend the Act extending the Act of the British Parliament to these islands, for the administration of criminal justice. Several of the provisions contained in the Act previously in operation had become antiquated, and were incapable of being carried into effect; and thus a hurtful uncertainty attached to the administration of criminal justice. More especially, a variety of offences were declared capital which are now never punished with death. The Act just passed assimilates the law to that of England. It is as yet premature to pronounce any opinion upon its effect. On the 29th June, with the advice of the Privy Council, I issued a proclamation, extending the provisions of the Passengers' Act to this colony. This I did by virtue of the clause of that Act, and the measure was called for in consequence of successful attempts having been made to seduce the Madeira immigrants to neighbouring colonies, under the fallacious expectation of higher wages than are here given. It was by no means intended to prevent those whose contracts were expired from going where they chose; but some were found to violate their engagements, and to suffer themselves to be allured away, and it was desirable to place every lawful impediment against such a proceeding. In addition to this, the measure was necessary for the safety of the people themselves, as they embarked, without hesitation, and with no regard to numbers, in small ill-found and worse provisioned vessels; thus incurring great risk to life, health, and property. This proclamation has, I believe, produced beneficial effects.

Population.

A census of the population taken in 1844 gives the number as—

12,739 males and	
14,834 females, or a	
Total of . . .	27,573

The white population, including males and females, amounted to only 1289. The census, although taken with as much exactness as circumstances permitted, does not exhibit some facts which it would be interesting as well as important to know. For instance, the numbers of males and females are given separately as wholes, without reference to colour; no enumeration is given of the black and coloured population separately; and the attempt at classification, with reference to age, was imperfect, owing to great numbers of the people being ignorant of their ages. It is generally supposed—and I believe, too, with good reason—that the whole amount of the population is considerably underrated. These imperfections arose, I am given to understand, in a great measure from the census having been the first ever taken, and from a suspicion on the part of the inhabitants, that the proceeding implied some concealed object by which they might be prejudiced. Were a census now to be undertaken, I apprehend that by applying judicious explanation, no difficulty or impediment would be experienced in obtaining correct information in every particular which is required. This would be of infinite importance as one of the guides in conducting the economies and legislation of the colony. It is supposed the population is increasing with considerable rapidity, so that its amount is now probably somewhat upwards of 30,000; for, by the census taken four years ago, and supposed too low—

We have	27,573
And by adding Madeira immigrants	1,979
There results . .	29,552

This population, although not large in proportion to the whole area of all the island composing this Government, is yet by no means small with reference to the extent actually occupied, the far greater part being mountain land covered with wood, and, in its present state, uninhabited. I have been unable to obtain a perfectly accurate statement of the total area of the colony, or of that portion which may be called inhabited; but, as a tolerable approximation in round numbers, I would put down the former at 150, and the latter at 50 square miles, which will give a population of 200 to the mile of the whole extent, and 600 of that actually tenanted. As nine-tenths of the population are available for agricultural labour, it would thus appear that there is no deficiency of people if they could be induced to work with steadiness and regularity. It is much to be regretted that no public registers of births, deaths, and marriages are kept. The returns in the Blue Book have been obtained from the clergymen of the various persuasions, and are, I believe, as far as they go, correct at least in respect to births and marriages, most of the children being now baptised in infancy. The deaths include only those of persons whose bodies are interred in the different churchyards; and, as many burials take place in other localities, the number 396 put down in the Blue Book is much too small. No return is made of those professing the Roman Catholic religion, who are supposed to amount, including the Madeireese, to about 7000. By allowing to them a similar proportion of births, deaths, and marriages, as that given in the Blue Book, for the rest of the inhabitants the total will be as follows:—

Births	1239
Marriages . . .	282
Deaths . . .	517

But these calculations must be regarded only as probable of proximations to the truth; and it is to be hoped that the obvious advantages of possessing correct information upon the subject will, ere long, command effective attention.

The imposition of a tax upon all rum consumed in the colony has, this year, thrown an additional light upon the quantity consumed. It would seem that very nearly 40.000 gallons paid duty; and, as it is not unreasonable to suppose that the actual consumption was considerably more, 50,000 may, I consider, be fairly put down as not exceeding the total. A calculation has also been made, from the Custom-house and Treasury returns, which, making a moderate allowance for smuggling, shows that, adding what has been imported, the value of wine, spirits, and malt liquors has exceeded 20,000*l.*, which is more than the revenue. This large consumption of liquor and waste of means is unques-

ST. VINCENT.

tionably to be deplored, and might lead to the inference that drunkenness is a prevailing vice. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the sight of any one in a state of intoxication is most rare indeed.

I have come to the conclusion that the comfortable condition of the population, as it removes the incentive to drink occasioned by misery, so it enables them generally to indulge with moderation in the exciting luxury of the bottle; and that thus, while the consumption of spirits is large, it is so diffused as to render intoxication of very unfrequent occurrence.

The reports of the magistrates agree in stating that intemperance has diminished greatly; and I am inclined to impute the decrease in the number of violent crimes chiefly to its diminution. Yet, notwithstanding all this, it is much to be wished that the habit of drinking were still less prevalent. Operating upon an excitable temperament, the effect of even a moderate quantity of ardent spirits is to rouse and inflame the passions to a dangerous degree, and thereby to produce many social evils. We may hope that the abolition of the practice of giving rum upon the estates, as a gratuity, will have a favourable tendency; but the real remedy is to be looked for in the furtherance of all those institutions of which the object is to elevate the moral and intellectual condition of the inhabitants.

The state of the Colonial Hospital (the only institution of the kind, and situate in Kingstown) is by no means such as is desirable. It enjoys a grant of 200*l.* per annum from the Treasury; which sum, as the population increases, will be found quite inadequate, unless private contributions are largely increased. The latter, I am sorry to say, are not, at present, very liberal; and the result is, that the institution is in debt, and the Directors are under the necessity of restricting the admissions to an extent that is highly injurious to the interests of the sick poor, and is painful to themselves.

Complaints are made of the rules and of the management; but, upon investigation, I can see no just grounds for them: the most is made of the limited means, and it is in fact the supply of funds that is wanting. The appointment of the Directors, in number seven, is vested in the executive; but their services, of course, are entirely gratuitous. It appeared to me that the constitution of what ought to be a highly popular institution, should be placed upon a more popular basis; and I therefore made a proposition to the Legislature for an alteration of the law relating to the hospital. This was to the effect, that the Directors (with the exception of the President of the Board of Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, who were always *ex-officio* to be in the direction) should be elected by the contributors, who should have one or more votes, in proportion to the amount of their subscription or donation, and that two of the number should retire annually by rotation, but who might be re-elected. If this proposal is carried out, it may be hoped that greater interest and more satisfaction will be felt by the public; that the names of contributors will be multiplied, and that the sphere of usefulness of the hospital will be extended. Should the experiment prove successful, it may even afford an inducement to form other hospitals in one or two places where near relief is required for the aged and infirm. For persons suffering under two dreadful maladies, there is no public provision—I mean lunatics and lepers: the former are few, very few indeed, in proportion to the population; but the latter, I regret to say, are increasing in number, and are, I am informed, more numerous than is generally supposed. I have on several occasions brought under the consideration of the Legislature the subject of a leper asylum.

Two lunatics have been confined in the gaol, and, under proper treatment, were sent out—one completely cured, and the other restored to such a state as to enable him to work for his support. There is at present one under the charge of the gaoler.

Although the greater number of immigrants from Madeira arrived during the year 1846, in order to afford a complete view of the subject, I annex a detailed report of all who have been landed up to the end of 1847.

Satisfaction is generally expressed at the results which have hitherto attended the experiment of introducing these immigrants, although the expense to the colony has been very considerable. They have proved, in most instances, good workmen, and there is little cause to complain of their conduct. Their industry, stimulated by a keen desire to earn and save money, is exemplary; but this desire is unfortunately carried to excess, leading to a neglect of the

comforts, and, in not a few instances, to a self-deprivation of the necessaries, of life. In this climate, more than in temperate regions, labour cannot be sustained, consistently with health, except by the aid of nourishing diet. The Portuguese are not wanting in the means of procuring all that is requisite, but grudge the smallest outlay of money. My inquiries have resulted in the belief that kind treatment is universally bestowed upon them, especially in sickness; but it cannot of course be expected that, in addition to medical attendance, their employers are to be at the expense of supplying them with those medical comforts for which they themselves are able to pay.

It is thus complained of by the medical men, that diseases, which might otherwise be surmounted, prove fatal from exhaustion caused by refusal to employ the means recommended, and which are within their reach. I will mention one instance, as narrated to me by a medical gentleman of extensive practice among these people. Finding a man in a very low and feeble state, he directed him to have some soup, and told him to buy a fowl wherewith to make it: the reply was, "I have no money;" upon which the overseer, who was present, asked, "What has become of the dollar I gave you yesterday?" but to this question there was given no satisfactory answer. On looking about the room the doctor observed, piled up near the bed, a quantity of yams of the value at least of five or six dollars, and suggested that some of them should be sold to buy what the sick man required; but to the proposal the utmost repugnance was evinced. This, I fear, is only one case out of many; the amassing of money seems the ruling passion, and I do not think I err in attributing a large proportion of the disease which has existed to its injurious operation, and yet the total amount of sickness and deaths has been less than might have been expected. The climate seems not, in general, to have a greatly injurious effect upon the constitutions of the immigrants. In some low and swampy situations they have suffered much, and a great proportion died shortly after arrival, and this led to the enactment which I have noticed. On the windward coast, little or no sickness has been experienced; and, indeed, that portion of the island, as it is the richest and best cultivated, seems, most fortunately, the best adapted to the constitution of the white races. Occasional restlessness has been shown, and a desire to change from one estate to another upon the expiring of engagements. This has had an injurious effect upon the immigrants themselves, as it not only has occasioned sickness, brought on by wandering about the country, but has deprived them of proper attendance under illness. In these circumstances several have been taken into the colonial hospital, some of whom were cured; but, in several instances, disease and debility had arrived at such a stage that medical aid was unavailing. A few have betaken themselves to small dealing, but I have heard no complaints on this score, either from the planters or the native dealers. It is my opinion that most of these people came here with the prospect and intention of making money and then returning to their native island; but I think it probable that many will permanently take up their abode here. A kindly feeling subsists between them and the native population: only one instance has come under my observation in which a Portuguese was seriously injured by a negro. I am not aware that any intermarriages have taken place, but consider it probable that in course of time they will do so, as the habits and language become more assimulated. In the meantime, it is to be regretted that no means exist of affording adequate provision for either the religious or secular instruction of the strangers. They are all Roman Catholics, and few of them, as yet, speak any language except Portuguese; it is, therefore, impossible that the single priest of the colony and his assistant, although zealous and active, can afford much service to them, and they are thus left almost totally without instruction of any kind. The young people are very expert in acquiring the English language, and it is to be hoped that, in a short time, many will be induced to take advantage of the schools which are open to them. The habits of the immigrants are, in general, sober, although the temptation of rum proves sometimes too strong to be resisted; and I have myself, occasionally, but not often, seen a Portuguese lying dead drunk on the road.

From what has been said, it will be seen that the experiment of immigration has here proved hitherto successful, and I would not hesitate to recommend its continuance if requisite.

Nothing can conduce more to the welfare and happiness of a whole com-

ST. VINCENT.

munity than a comfortable condition of the labouring classes, and, as it exists here at present, so it is desirable that it be maintained; but it seems doubtful whether the present scale of wages can be kept up by the planter, with the prices of his produce falling as they are, so as to afford a profit upon cultivation. In this view one of two plans must take place, if cultivation is to be continued, viz., either a diminution of wages or an increase in the amount of work: the latter seems to me the more desirable alternative. Although hard and continued labour out of doors would, in this climate, prove injurious to any constitution, it is yet universally acknowledged that the length of time occupied daily in work is less than may be so employed consistently with perfect health and comfort. Could a greater amount of labour, therefore, be thus obtained, it would add to the profits of the employers without affecting the comforts of the people; it might even be expected to produce an additional good effect by causing the occupation of that time which, from being unemployed, may afford a temptation to idleness or vice.

Were the labourers obliged to submit to either a decrease of wages or an increase of work, and the choice left to themselves, I entertain no doubt they would, decide in favour of the latter, provided it was only to a reasonable amount. But any attempt at a change is attended with difficulty, their circumstances being by no means such as to compel them to submit to it; because the means of living, with little or no labour, can, in a great majority of instances, be obtained. I am inclined to think the difficulty will be gradually removed by the agency of various causes. In the first place, the increase of population will occasion a greater competition for the means of living; secondly, as education and intelligence progress, increasing desire will be felt for advancement in the social scale; and thirdly, artificial wants, by being multiplied, will act as a stimulus to industry. An idea has been promulgated by writers who have considered the subject of free and slave labour that, in this climate, some species of physical compulsion will always be requisite to obtain an adequate amount of work; this is by no means the opinion which my observation has led me to form. The very fact that, at the present moment, a certain amount of labour is willingly undergone by people who may live and enjoy ease without it, shows that they are actuated by some moral motive stronger than the mere desire of existence, and leads to the inference that, were the motive strengthened, its operation would become more intense.

Much of the unsteadiness and want of regularity in labour seems to be attributable to two causes, one of which is the free allotment of houses and provision-grounds, and the other the system of monthly hiring. They occasion a degree of independence of the labourer upon his employer which is injurious to the true interests of both. I do not object to the labourers occupying pieces of land; on the contrary, I am disposed to advocate what is called the village system, provided the villages are in the near neighbourhood of the estates; but propose that the houses and grounds should either be purchased or rented by the year at least, or even for a term of years, by the occupiers.

A fixed agricultural population would thus be established. With regard to the period of hiring, as the operations of agriculture and the making of sugar are annual, it appears that the term of a year is the natural one for engagements. I believe the planters would be glad generally to adopt annual hiring, but it is doubtful whether the labourers could easily be persuaded to what they may be disposed to regard as a great restriction of their liberty.

Such advantages, however, are sure to follow to all parties that they are certainly worth the endeavour to obtain them.

The cessation from labour on Saturday seems an unnecessary relaxation, and leads to many irregularities. No better reason can be assigned for it than old habit, and the sooner it is got rid of the better. It is not easy to see why a sixth part of the increase which may be obtained should be sacrificed here more than in other quarters of the globe. The practice originated during slavery, when Saturday was allowed to the slave for the cultivation of his provision-ground and the sale of his produce, because his whole time and strength during the other five days were fully drawn upon by his master. No such reason now exists; the hours of labour will never be oppressively protracted, and a very short time devoted daily to the provision-grounds will suffice. The custom of coming to Kingstown to market, on Saturday, from

remote parts of the island is injurious: it is a waste both of time and money. Were the industrial occupation of Saturday to cause its discontinuance, better and more economical modes of enabling the people to dispose of their produce and make their purchases would soon be substituted.

Ecclesiastical Return.

On adverting to the Ecclesiastical Return, it will be found that, exclusive of the Presbyterians and Roman Catholics, of whom no returns are inserted, the number of persons who generally attend Church service throughout the colony appears to be 13,110. If a proportionate allowance is made for the attendance of members of the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches, it would seem that nearly one-half of the total population habitually joins in public worship. This is a striking fact, and would almost lead to a suspicion of some mistake in figures, but from any one who has under his eye the unceasing and zealous efforts which are being made by the ministers of religion, such a suspicion will vanish. They have also, unquestionably, a good field wherein to labour, as the strong inclination of the people to join in public worship must be apparent to all who turn a slight degree of attention to their habits. The Presbyterian Church in Kingstown is capable of accommodating about 300 sitters, but is not in general numerously attended, as the members of this persuasion in the town are few. There are a good many throughout the island, consisting chiefly of Scotch managers, overseers, &c., upon the estates. The clergyman is therefore used to hold service at various stations. A second minister is desirable, as the interruptions to regular and stated service have an evil effect upon the church-going habits of the congregation. During the latter portion of the year the Presbyterian Church has been closed, owing to the departure of the minister, but measures are taking to secure the services of another, which it is hoped will soon be successful. The Roman Catholic Church in Kingstown is, I believe, generally well attended. The priest and his assistant officiate also frequently in other localities.

Under the subject of immigrants, I have stated that it is much to be wished the Portuguese could have the benefit of a priest who has a knowledge of their language and habits. I am given to understand that they themselves would willingly contribute somewhat towards the expense of his salary, and it is a subject which it is to be hoped may be favourably considered by the Legislature. There are several stations at which churches of the Establishment are much required. I would more particularly mention three, viz., Chateaubellair, Layon, and Biabon. The two former are small towns, containing a considerable and daily increasing population. The chapels which they possess are merely houses rented at the public expense, generally in a bad state of repair, and, in fact, unfit properly to fulfil the purpose to which they are put.

At Chateaubellair it is expected that a piece of land will be obtained suitable for the site of a church and burial-ground, and the rent now paid for indifferent accommodation would cover a greater part of the interest of the money required for the completion of the building. I entertain hopes, therefore, that this desirable undertaking may be carried into effect. At Biabon, although the population in the neighbourhood is dense, there is no place of worship at all belonging to the Establishment. Arrangements are in progress for obtaining the site of a church there also, but I fear that the want of funds will, for an indefinite period of time, prevent the erection of such an edifice.

Education.

The withdrawal of the aid afforded by the Home Government, and the requirement of small school fees, operated, at first, unfavourably on the cause of education, and complaints were frequent from teachers and other persons most intimately cognizant of the subject, that parents began to withdraw their children from the schools, refusing to pay the penny or two-pence a-week demanded. The reluctance to pay so small a sum arose, certainly not from want of means, nor do I attribute it altogether to total absence of interest in the education of their children. It must be referred, I think, to habit and a want of knowledge or reflection upon the subject. Finding that great exertions were made to instruct the children, without expense to the parents, it was perhaps not unnaturally concluded that other parties had an equal, if not a

ST. VINCENT.

greater interest, in the process; and a hope was entertained that the pupils, taken from the schools, might be eagerly urged to return on the former system of gratuitous instruction. Clearer and better ideas are, however, by degrees, becoming impressed upon the great bulk of the people, and there is ground for the expectation that the number of the children attending the schools will henceforth, instead of retrograding, progressively and steadily advance. In the town of Kingstown alone the average number of pupils is—

Males . . .	388
Females . . .	296
Total . .	684

which, under all circumstances, is entitled to be regarded as a respectable number out of a population of about 5000. In other parts, the proportion is not, of course, so great, the totals throughout the colony being—

Males . . .	1140
Females . .	886
Total . .	2026

Upon going into any of the school-houses one is struck with the fact that the pupils are almost invariably very young, there being few or none above the age of 12 or 13. This fact, while it accounts for the limited attendance at school, also goes towards explaining its cause. It would appear that the children are removed as soon as they can be of domestic assistance to their parents or other relatives. I say domestic assistance, because it is not found that a variation in the number attending school has any sensible effect upon that of the youth under the age of 15 who are at work for hire.

In most of the schools the elementary branches of learning alone are taught, viz., reading, writing, and arithmetic; and, in the existing state of the community, this, in addition to religious instruction, which is always included, is all that can be expected, or perhaps even desired, for the great mass of the population.

Kingstown possesses two schools of a higher grade, one of which, termed the Proprietary Grammar School, was established by subscription. The other is under the auspices of the Presbyterian Association. They each have a male and female teacher of superior qualifications. The number of pupils attending the Grammar School is—

Males . . .	22
Females . . .	13
Total . .	35

and the Presbyterian School—

Males . . .	28
Females . . .	12
Total . .	40

There are thus 75 young persons receiving a higher class education within the colony. The system of tuition is the same as that generally followed in the grammar schools of the mother country, and embraces all the branches of education commonly taught therein. The abilities and zeal of the teachers of these two schools are deserving of the highest commendation, and I believe that the pupils will bear comparison, as to acquirements and progress, with those of similar age and of most schools in Great Britain. They consist of the children of the wealthier classes of all colours; while, with the object of rendering education of more value in the eyes of the people, small fees are demanded in most of the elementary schools, except in cases of undoubted poverty on the part of parents; these form a very small portion of the funds available for the support of the establishments.

A public grant of 150*l.* per annum is paid to the Society for the Education of the Poor, a most praiseworthy institution, conducted under the auspices of the coloured gentlemen of Kingstown, assisted by the rector; and, since the

withdrawal of aid from the Home Government, an Act has been passed giving a further sum of 775*l.* for educational purposes, as follows:—

	£.
Proprietary Grammar School . .	200
Presbyterian School	150
Wesleyan School in Kingstown . .	150
Roman Catholic	50
Parish Schools:	
St. George and St. Andrew . . .	60
St. Patrick	30
St. David's	30
North and South:	
Charlotte	75
Grenadines	30
Total . . .	£775

I have at different times visited various of the schools for the poorer classes, and have been generally pleased with their condition. The children, almost universally, exhibit peculiar dexterity and neatness in writing, and many of them appear expert in arithmetic. As a fact, exhibiting attention and care, I may mention that, in one school (at Chateaubellair) I detected only a single soil or blot in the pages of 15 or 20 writing-books which I examined.

Although the sum granted by the Legislature, in support of education, is unquestionably large in proportion to the means of the colony, being not far from 5 per cent. of the whole revenue, yet as it is apportioned among a great many schools, and as the fees paid are so very small, the emoluments of the teachers are in many cases indifferent. It is not therefore to be expected that much progress can be made towards the adoption of the improved systems of teaching and training now so much recommended and prominently brought forward in the mother country. Fully to carry out these systems, the teachers must themselves be trained in a course of education especially adapted to their vocation, and to effect this no means are within reach. Even could some young men be sent to England to be educated as teachers, an adequate remuneration would not await them on their return to the colony. In present circumstances we must be content with distributing among the teachers such books and pamphlets as may afford information on the conduct of their labours, and, at the same time, give them all encouragement in the prosecution of their arduous and important duties. The establishment of industrial schools has been recommended, and, were the first difficulties and expense of such an undertaking once surmounted, its success can hardly be doubtful. Facilities are held out for the advantageous conduct of such schools by soil, climate, and other local advantages, which would, I think, with ordinary supervision, soon render them self-supporting.

In addition to the useful and practical knowledge to be gained in institutions of this nature, a highly beneficial effect may be expected to follow their operation upon the character of the people, by inducing habits of regularity and steady industry, which, by degrees, might be expected to overcome those adverse circumstances that have stood in the way of their acquirement.

Imports and Exports.

Little or no variation takes place from year to year in the nature of the articles of the import and export. The habits of the people, in this respect, seem to have been formed, and to have become nearly fixed, in a condition which they will probably retain, unless some unexpected social change should occur.

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

Trouble and inconvenience, and in some cases loss are caused by the variety of coins in circulation, as well as by accounts being kept in different denominations. The quarters and eighths of the dollar being very near in value to shillings and sixpences, are not unfrequently paid as such, and *vice versâ*. Thus there is encouraged a want of that precision in money payments which it is

ST. VINCENT.

always desirable to facilitate; for if precision is insisted upon, a loss of time is occasioned in calculations about pence and halfpence. Since the great increase of intercourse with America, the dollar and its parts have formed the much larger portion of the circulation; and it seems to me to be desired that the medium should be as far as possible confined to these coins. Payments would be effected with facility and exactness, and the ease in keeping accounts would realize a great saving of time. I am aware of the difficulties which stand in the way of the accomplishment of this object, but would suggest that it may be gradually attained by a coinage in Great Britain of dollars and their fractional parts. Bankers and others importing specie from England would doubtless give a preference to these coins. All the notes issued by the banks are promises to pay from five dollars upwards. No one ever speaks of the value of any article as being so many pounds or shillings, but so many dollars and cents; and it is not easy to perceive any object in keeping up the fiction of sterling.

I have much desired to obtain even an approximation to the amount of coin and paper currency in circulation, but have not succeeded. Recently, however, suggestions have been afforded me as to sources of information from which I hope for some light upon this subject. By referring to page 161 of the Blue Book, it will be seen that the managers of the banks decline to state the amount of paper currency in circulation. We are thus in the dark as regards an important index of the economical state of the colony. The practice prevalent among the labouring population of hoarding up money, especially coin, is well known, and it is supposed that large sums are thus disposed of. The Madeira immigrants, too, have either imported this practice, or have not been slow to follow the example set them by the natives. It thus happens that the coin is as it were absorbed, and taken constantly out of circulation. This has unquestionably exercised some influence in causing the scarcity for some time complained of, and has the evil effect of creating a necessity for the supply of a greater quantity of specie than would otherwise be required to circulate the transactions of the community. It is not easy to provide a specific remedy for this evil, nor indeed any others than those which may be furnished by advance in the intelligence, and improvement in the habits of the mass of the population. For a long time after the establishment of the banks they obtained no confidence from the lower classes; and even now few are found to deposit their savings therein, which are almost universally considered safer, and more under the control of the owner, in a bag and in his own custody. A savings' bank has been proposed, but I fear that this want of confidence would render its operation extremely limited. Perhaps the temptation of a high rate of interest might draw forth some hoards; but how are the deposits to be invested so as to provide for such interest, besides the expense of management? No means that I can see at present exist within the colony of profitable investment on such security as could be immediately convertible; and were stoppage to occur in the payment of deposits when demanded, confidence will of course be still further impaired or even totally ruined. The establishment of central sugar manufactories may have some influence upon this matter. If conducted by substantial companies, an investment may be found in shares which will be readily and perhaps advantageously convertible.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures require revision. I have cause to believe that not a little fraud and much unintentional deception takes place from the want of proper regulations in this respect. Articles are sold by measure or by price which should be tested by weight alone; and there are grounds for suspicion that frequently neither the weights nor measures are of the proper standard value. This is a subject which I hope soon to bring under the notice of the Legislature.

Agriculture.

I have stated in the opening of this Report that considerable improvements in agriculture have been effected, but it appears to me not doubtful that many more might be introduced with advantage.

Little seems to have been effected with a view to the abridgment of human labour; and what may be termed implements of husbandry are not fre-

quently to be seen in use. I should be very diffident in stating an opinion at variance with what seems to prevail among many of the most experienced planters, that the plough cannot be generally brought into use. It certainly does seem to me that there are extensive tracts of the finest land which may be, with great economy, subjected to the operation of that instrument. No doubt there are many portions of ground, at present under cane cultivation, of which the great steepness and other circumstances present a bar to the use of the plough. Some of these may be cultivated to advantage under the present system of the hoe, but it admits of a question whether a great portion of them can be made to produce the cane profitably under any mode of culture. They are intended by nature for other products. The quantity of sugar which an estate yields cannot be viewed as the sole criterion of its prosperity; the comparative cost of production must also be taken into account. Accordingly it would seem prudent to confine the cultivation to the richer and more accessible lands, and to devote attention to the drawing out of their utmost capabilities. It strikes me that this course of proceeding will be gradually adopted, and will be found to give the largest profits at the smallest expense.

It is very natural that the production of sugar should be regarded as the chief branch of industry, but it by no means follows that others ought to be almost totally neglected.

The esculent vegetables more peculiar to the tropics flourish luxuriantly with little care or cultivation; and most of those belonging to a temperate climate which have had common justice done to them come to a fair growth. The cultivation of vegetables of the country is confined exclusively to the labouring population for their own use and profit; it is not attended to with what can be called careful husbandry, nor is it to be expected that much knowledge of the best mode of management is brought to bear upon it; yet the profits are acknowledged to be great. Many estates contain portions of land well adapted for the growth of these vegetables, and indeed on the very best ground an occasional change of crop would seem advisable. Why is it not adopted? I can see no reason but adherence to old and routine habit, connected with a desire to produce and export a large quantity of sugar without reference to any other advantage. The change suggested could obviously be effected without the requirement of any additional capital; and, moreover, the now well-understood principles of agriculture justify the confidence that its application towards giving full advantage to the better soil, and drawing from the poorer and less favourably situated what can be cheaply extracted, would ere long realize not only larger profits, but even a greater absolute amount of the staple produce itself, although from a small breadth of land. Such a change would also be likely to cause more attention to the rearing and feeding of stock, by affording for them a better supply of food. At present this branch of rural economy cannot be characterized as otherwise than much neglected, and yet I am convinced that it might be turned to good and profitable account.

The price of butcher meat in the market is exorbitant, being for mutton 1*s.* and for beef 10*d.* per lb., and the quality is generally miserable. And yet occasionally really good meat is produced, showing that want of attention and not any evil of climate or soil is to be accused of what is bad. I know well the force of habit in affairs long continued, and will not be surprised if these remarks upon the agriculture of this colony are regarded as visionary. I trust however they will not be viewed as at all offensive, or meant to convey reprehension upon the industry and skill of the planters more than any other suggestions of improvement. They result from the observation and reflection of one who is at least unprejudiced, and are put forth with the single purpose of promoting progress and improvement.

Produce and Merchandise, &c. &c.

The average prices of produce and merchandise do not, as a general rule, vary much from year to year, and are usually high;—butcher meat, the produce of the dairy, poultry, fish, and all articles which may be termed necessary to the wealthier classes are high priced. This is caused by the limited attention paid to their production, the cultivation of the sugar-cane engrossing almost every care, and land being devoted to it which it would seem might be more advantageously made to yield food for the consumption of the inhabitants.

ST. VINCENT.

Vegetables, or, as they are termed, provisions, because they form the most material part of the food of the labouring population, have varied much in price, as they always do, at different periods of the year. It would appear as if little care or economy were bestowed upon them, so that abundance is soon followed by comparative scarcity; and it thus happens that the price has fluctuated to the extent of at least doubling. The lowest price is, however, higher than the average of that of the esculent vegetables in Great Britain; so that, taking account of the small labour required for their cultivation, and the rapid and exceeding vegetation, the profit to the grower must be immense. An acre of yams has been worth as much as 30*l.* or 35*l.* Wages for labour viewed relatively are unquestionably high; that is to say, every individual bestowing manual labour for hire, receives in return for it a large portion of what are regarded by him as the necessaries and comforts of life. Nay more; he is enabled to indulge in not a few luxuries and superfluities. This may have the appearance of a paradox in juxta-position with my foregoing statement as to high prices; but it must be borne in mind how few, in this climate, are the necessaries of life. They are, in strict fact, confined to the one article of food, and the simple articles of clothing required by the climate; everything else may be regarded as either a comfort or luxury. It is not easy to estimate the precise amount of the wages given to agricultural labourers, and some misapprehension may exist upon this subject. They are usually stated at 8*d.* a-day for the first class, and proportionally less for the others. This is the money wage alone; and, in addition, the labourer enjoys a house and patch of ground, and in some instances other perquisites. The value of these additions, at least of the patch of ground, of course varies; but I am certain that I take a low average when I put it down from 12*l.* to 15*l.* a-year. A labourer who works steadily for five days in the week, which is all that is required, will thus earn from 20*l.* to 25*l.* a-year. Such labourers as receive money wages alone have 1*s.* a-day and upwards, as agreed.

Manufactures, Mines, &c.

Strictly speaking, the making of Muscavado sugar and preparing arrow root should be called manufactures, but, being conducted by the same individuals as are engaged in raising the raw produce, they are hardly regarded in that light. It is to be hoped that the manufacture of sugar, at least, will ere long assume a different character. With the exception of those of some, but not many estates, it seems to me that the sugar-canes may all be worked off in a few central manufactories. Commencing towards the northern extremity of the island, we have, on the windward coast, a belt of cultivated land extending for five or six miles, with an average breadth of about one mile, having a tolerably even surface and a gradual slope towards the sea. It is obvious that a locality, as near the centre of this district as circumstances may permit, is well adapted for the position of a manufactory. Proceeding southwards, the country assumes a more broken aspect, but, with some exceptions, the cultivated land is contained in valleys in which tram-roads may, without large outlay, be laid down, most of which are of sufficient extent to supply a large amount of canes.

On the leeward coast, the difficulties opposed by the rugged nature of the country, do, in most instances, render the formation of tram-roads, or any mode of transport by land, of a large quantity of canes to one point from different estates, nearly impracticable, but the almost invariable smoothliness of the sea at once suggests the facility with which water carriage may be adopted. There is, in the leeward district, a valley named Buccament, of large extent, and containing several estates which are said, at one time, to have produced 1000 hogsheads of sugar. This valley is watered by a stream well adapted to turn machinery, and appears, in all respects, one of the most favourable localities for a central manufactory.

I have already noticed the erection of extensive and improved machinery upon one estate. The proprietor, Henry Morgan, Esq., who merits high praise for his enterprise, intends, I believe, to extend his manufacture to the canes of such neighbouring estates as agree to furnish them. Hitherto he has been cramped in his operations from the want of a steam-engine of suitable power. He is about, I understand, to remedy this defect. It is to be hoped

that his undertaking will meet with the success which it deserves, and draw capital to the establishment of central manufactories throughout the island. Many arguments both in favour of and against such establishments have been used. This is not a place to enter into a discussion of them, and I shall therefore only say that, having considered them all, I have no hesitation in pronouncing my individual opinion in favour of central manufactories. The manufacture of arrowroot is on the increase. The demand for this article, although becoming greater, does not appear extensive. Were it so, the quantity produced here might and probably would be much enlarged.

Land at present under cane cultivation, but which is not well adapted to it, might, with better profit, be put under arrowroot, as its cultivation requires only light labour, and its manufacture small capital. The quality produced fetches fully an average price in the market. Not many years ago a small plantation in this island furnished a very large proportion of all the arrowroot to Great Britain. I regard it as an article likely to become of increasing, and, ultimately, of great importance in the commerce of the colony. It is desirable that, where access can be had to them, returns should be obtained of the extent of land under different crops, and I have suggested a means of attaining this object. The average yield of cane land is supposed to be about one ton of sugar per acre, and the produce of this year is stated at 19,554,320 lbs. or 8730 tons nearly. This number of 8730 is probably not far from the number of acres of cane cultivation. It is impossible to arrive at any approximation to the extent of land under arrowroot or other produce. The provision grounds of the labouring population are, in the aggregate, extensive. With no fixed data upon which to proceed, but merely from passing observation and probability, I would guess them as embracing from 10,000 to 12,000 acres. Under the head of minerals may be mentioned an earth called Pozzolanna which has recently attracted notice. It has been analysed, and found to have properties which occasion it, when mixed with common mortar, to set and harden remarkably under water.

It seems a volcanic substance, and shows itself generally throughout the island apparently in inexhaustible quantities. Should it fulfil what is expected, it will prove of much use in the formation of Docks, Canal locks or other sub-marine structures, and perhaps become a valuable article of export.

Grants of Land.

During the early part of this year my attention was a good deal directed to the subject of the Crown lands, and I had prepared a report, with a view to recommending their disposal by a general sale. A change of circumstanc s, however, chiefly connected with the fall in the value of produce, together with more extended observation and inquiry, induced me to forego the transmission of that report. I have, in fact, come to the conclusion, that any extensive sale of the Crown lands would be at present premature and impolitic. Petitions for permission to purchase land are not unfrequent. In some cases it may be advisable to grant the prayer of these petitions, and in others not. I think the best course to adopt with regard to them is that they be referred to a commission composed of persons connected with local interests. The stipendiary justices are unanimous in reporting that the practice of squatting is abating. Thus one of the strongest reasons for a general sale of the Crown lands is being removed.

Gaols and Prisoners.

By a reference to the Blue Book, it will be seen that there is only one gaol or place of confinement or house of correction. This is not sufficient, and the inconvenience and expense of sending offenders to prison has led to the imposition of fines as a penalty instead of, in many instances, the more appropriate and effectual punishment of incarceration. A proposition has been made to legalize, as a prison, a building which is situate in the most populous district, and which was, at one time, used as a place of confinement and is now a police station.

Some alterations and repairs are requisite, but it may without much expense be turned to the purpose which it is wished it should serve. There is another building in an opposite quarter, but its position is so ill chosen that it cannot

ST. VINCENT.

be recommended as a gaol, although it may serve as a lock-up house in which to secure prisoners for not more than one or two days. The situation of the gaol in Kingstown is certainly not the best which might have been chosen, and its unhealthiness had been for some time a subject of just complaint. Drainage has lately been effected in its neighbourhood with the most satisfactory results. The returns show no reason for dissatisfaction on the score of sickness. The number of persons in confinement during the year is stated at 278, and the cases of sickness only 25, or about 1 in 11. In 1846, out of 388 prisoners there were 59 cases of sickness, or more than 1 in 7. Be it remarked also that this season has been particularly wet, so that there can be no doubt of the improved salubrity of the gaol. It may be objected that whereas there were no deaths in 1846, four happened in 1847. Of these, however, one was that of a man, old and infirm, when placed in confinement, and the others, I believe, were not from the effects of illness contracted in the gaol. A more regular and strict system of internal management has been practised, and to this, also, in some degree, must be attributed the improved health of the prisoners. A Committee has reported on improvements to be made on the structure of the building, most of which will soon be accomplished. From the limited extent of the buildings it will be impossible to follow out, in any measure, to their full extent, the arrangements required for classification and separate confinement, but a nearer approach will be made to them than hitherto, more particularly as regards the employment of the convicts. Little or no accommodation is found for labour within the gaol, and it has therefore been imperative to employ, out of doors and in gangs, generally in the repair of roads, those sentenced to hard labour.

It is proposed to convert what were formerly intended for solitary cells, but are unfit for that purpose, into separate places of labour. The worst class of the malefactors will thus be kept apart from the rest and from each other, at least during the day, and this is an important step towards classification. To carry it much further would, I fear, cause an undue expense which the colony is unable to bear. A comparison with the previous year shows a most gratifying decrease in the number of persons committed to gaol, as leading to the inference that crime has greatly diminished, and when an analysis is made of the magisterial returns, as well as those in the Blue Book, the additional pleasing fact would appear that the amount of more heinous offences has been reduced in a double ratio. There is one fact which I wish to mention, because it has struck me as indicative, in a great measure, of an improved gaol discipline: I allude to the number of prisoners who have been committed twice, three times, or more. In 1846, out of a total of 388, there had been committed twice 118, and three times or more 135, being, in the first, 1 in 3½, and, in the second, 1 in 3 nearly. Whereas, in 1847, of 278 the total, the numbers are 51 and 56, being 1 in 5½, and 1 in 5 or thereabouts.

The most prevalent offences have been common assaults and petty thefts; a tendency to the latter being indeed the most prominent vice in the character of the lower orders. Among the females, I regret to say, the use of indecent and abusive language causes a large portion of the commitments. Some cases of incendiarism have taken place, but every effort has failed to detect the perpetrators. As usual with heinous and dangerous crimes, they followed one another to the number of four at small intervals of time, it would seem as from infection. The property destroyed being, in every instance, the same,—Megass houses. Having issued an address to the people, I have the pleasure of thinking it produced a good effect; at least, there were no more fires. No satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at as to the motive for these acts of fire-raising. They occurred in parts of the island distant from one another. In one case, attempts at plundering during the confusion were detected, but not in others. The labourers, as far as known, were on good terms with their employers, and, when my address was read to them, expressed abhorrence of the crime. When such acts are heard of at a distance from the scene of their occurrence, an impression is apt to be formed that an evil tone of feeling exists generally among the people. That this is not the case here I can, without hesitation, declare. I am convinced that, if malice or revenge prompted to these crimes, these passions were found only with the few cowardly miscreants who perpetrated the deeds, and who, far from being regarded with sympathy, are viewed with detestation by the great mass of the people.

Whether crime will continue to decrease is a question which, depending as it does upon so many circumstances impossible to foresee, cannot be positively answered.

But the elements now in operation would seem to point to the affirmative. Religious and moral duties and obligations are daily and hourly inculcated by an intelligent and zealous ministry, and those whose duty it is to detect offenders, and bring them to punishment, cannot be accused of remissness.

The physical condition of the population is one of great comfort, and, while it so continues, the fruitful source of vice arising from squalid poverty and leading to crime can have no existence. Under an enlarging sense of the value of the social duties declared by improved education, domestic ties are more generally regarded with respect. The relations of husband and wife, father and son, are better acknowledged as inferring the duties of fidelity, affection, and support.

But while we must congratulate ourselves upon the manifest and progressive improvement which has been presented, and may indulge a pleasing hope of its continuance, let it not be concealed that there is still much evil to be deplored, and much good to be effected, and let the result of past exertions only stimulate to fresh and sustained efforts the legislator, the teacher, and the philanthropist.

JOHN CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Governor.

RETURN of IMMIGRANTS imported into this Island from Madeira between 1st March, 1845, and 1st June, 1847.

Date of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	Employer.	Location.	Men.	Women.	Children 10 to 15.	Children under 10.	Total.	Bounty. £.	s.	d.
1846											
January 6	Ship Eliza	John McFee	Cane Grove	38	20	Children included	..	58			
		T. H. Dakins	C. Vale	28	14		..	42			
		J. Porter	Fairhall	5	5		..	10			
		,,	Brighton	4	3		..	7			
		,,	Escape	4	3		..	7			
		,,	Rut. Vale	4	3		..	7			
		,,	Hope	5	6		..	11			
				88	54	..	..	142	370	0	0
March 16.	Ship Eliza	A. Cumming	Prospect	9	5	..	6	20			
		,,	Bellvue	7	7	1	5	20			
		J. Whittall	Cam. Park	5	5	4	11	25			
		T. H. Dakins	Park Hill	8	4	3	10	25			
		,,	Sans Souci	8	8	1	8	25			
		T. A. Mills	L. Mahant	6	5	5	7	23			
		R. Chapman	Union	3	3	1	7	14			
		T. H. Dakins	C. Vale	13	2	..	1	16			
		J. McFee	Cane Grove	1	..	..	..	1			
		Jas. Porter	Low. Diamond	11	5	..	5	21			
		,,	Escape	13	1	..	1	15			
		,,	M. Pleasant	5	..	..	..	5			
		,,	Nut. Grove	3	2	..	..	5			
		,,	Caruth	3	..	..	..	3			
		,,	,,	5	1	1	..	7			
				100	48	16	61	225	624	0	0
April 23	Cath. Elizabeth	J. Whittall	Cam. Park	23	20	5	22	70			
		D. Minors	Spring	11	14	2	5	32			
				34	34	7	27	102	286	0	0
May 18	Ship Ruckers	J. Whittall	C. Park	6	1	..	..	7			
		A. Torrance	Kingstown	1	1	..	1	3			
		J. Symon	N. Prospect	3	3	..	3	9			
		A. Robertson	Troumaca	5	6	2	5	18			
				15	11	2	9	37	108	0	0

Return of Immigrants imported into this Island from Madeira, &c.—*continued.*

Date of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	Employer.	Location.	Men.	Women.	Children 10 to 15.	Children under 10.	Total.	Bounty. £. s. d.
1846									
July 3	Hallyards	Jas. Porter	Cal. Ridge	4	4	2	5	15	
		,,	Calder	4	7	2	3	16	
		,,	Mt. Grenan	2	4	2	4	12	
		,,	Argyle	2	5	1	2	10	
		,,	Cane Garden	3	1	4	1	9	
		,,	Jambou Vale	4	6	1	4	15	
		,,	Up. Adelphi	2	1	..	3	6	
		,,	Marriaqua	2	1	..	2	5	
		T. H. Dakins	Mt. Bentinck / Mt. William	9	11	4	8	32	
		,,							
		,,	Sans Souci	6	4	3	5	18	
				38	44	19	37	138	366 0 0
July 10	Jas. Cruikshank	W. Hunt	Cumberland	6	8	2	3	19	
		,,	Questells	2	3	3	6	14	
		,,	Rose Bank	4	7	7	2	15	
	A. Cumming	A. Cumming	Rabacca	8	4	1	1	14	
		,,	Prospect	1	1	..	3	5	
		,,	Lot 14	5	5	4	11	25	
		F. Winn	Cane Hall	6	7	5	6	24	
		J. L. Morris	Gibsons	2	..	..	..	2	
		J. L. Hazell	Paget Farm	2	1	..	2	5	
		J. Andain	. .	1	1	..	2	4	
		R. A. St. Hill	Gibsons	..	3	1	1	5	
		Interpreter	Kingstown	1	..	..	..	1	No Bounty.
				41	43	20	40	144	372 0 0
July 20	Bolivar	H. G. Grant	Bellisle	10	9	4	15	38	84 0 0
August 18	Eliza	A. Robertson	Belmont	5	5	5	10	25	
		J. Dunlop	Owia	2	2	..	3	7	
		R. Chapman	Union	16	14	7	11	48	
		W. Smith	Peruvian Vale	7	6	2	7	22	
		T. Le Gall	Edinbugh	1	..	..	..	1	
		J. Porter	. .	..	1	..	3	4	
		J. Ramsay	Kingstown	1	1	..	1	3	No Bounty.
		A. McLeod	,,	4	..	..	..	4	
				36	29	14	35	114	264 0 0
October 17	Cath. Elizabeth	A. McLeod	Waterloo and Orangehill	16	18	3	9	46	
		A. Cumming	Rabacca and Lot 14 Est.	8	3	..	..	11	
		,,	Prospect	12	8	3	7	30	
		John Reily	Gomea	2	1	1	..	4	
		J. Whittall	Cam. Park	3	3	3	2	11	
		Geo. Cropper	Lowmans	1	1	1	1	4	
		T. C. Mills	Mt. Hope	4	4	1	3	12	
		W. Cropper	Queensbury	5	3	2	..	10	
		W. Leake	Montrose	1	..	..	..	1	
		R. A. St. Hill	Gibsons	1	..	..	..	1	
		R. Chapman	Union	4	5	4	9	22	
		Wm. Sayers	Mesopotamia	1	1	1	2	5	
		Jane Ross	Gomea	..	2	..	..	2	
		A. Torrance	King's Valley	1	..	..	1	2	
		John Herbert	,,	1	1	..	2	4	
				60	50	19	35	164	478 0 0
Nov. 18	Victoria	Jas. Porter	Fairhall	1	2	..	..	3	
			Jambou	4	8	1	7	20	
			Escape	6	4	..	5	15	
			Walliabou	5	7	1	12	25	
			Mt. Pleasant	7	4	1	6	18	
			Mt. Grenan	1	2	..	2	5	
			Gomea	1	1	..	1	3	
			R. Vale	9	12	2	6	29	
			Kin. Valley	1	2	1	1	5	
			Villa	1	2	..	1	4	

Return of Immigrants imported into this Island from Madeira, &c.— *continued.*

Date of Arrival.	Name of Vessel.	Employer.	Location.	Men.	Women.	Children 10 to 15.	Children under 10.	Total.	Bounty. £. s. d.
1846									
Nov. 18 .	Victoria . .	Jas. Porter . .	Calder . . .	4	2	1	1	8	
			Argyle . . .	5	6	2	2	15	
			Calder . . .	1	1	1	2	5	
			Per. Vale . .	1	1	..	..	2	
				47	54	11	45	157	408 0 0
Dec. 31	Clydeside . .	A. Robertson .	Tromaca. . .	7	4	3	4	18	
		H. Smith . .	Per. Vale . .	6	6	1	6	19	
				13	10	4	10	37	100 0 0
1847									
January 7	D. Lyon . .	H. G. Grant .	Arnos Vale . .	7	8	5	9	29	
		A. Cumming .	San. Park . .	9	7	1	8	25	
		J. Reily . . .	Gomea . . .	..	..	1	..	1	
		J. Symon . .	Prospect. . .	5	..	..	..	5	
		W. G. Grant .	Arnos Vale . .	..	2	2	5	9	
				21	17	9	22	69	170 0 0
Feb. 17 .	Eliza . . .	W. Hunt . .	Pembroke . .	6	7	1	8	22	
		,,	Ratho Mill . .	12	13	8	7	40	
		A. McLeod . .	Gr. Sable . .	5	9	5	5	24	
		J. Le Gall . .	Tourama . .	16	11	3	7	37	
		H. Morgan . .	Penistons . .	2	2	5	2	11	
		,,	L. Diamond .	9	6	1	3	19	
		F. D. Sutherland	Montrose . .	1	..	1	..	2	
				51	48	24	32	155	333 0 0
April 13 .	C. Elizabeth .	A. Cumming .	Bellvue . . .	8	8	3	10	29	
		H. Hackshaw .	Mt. William .	16	15	6	5	42	
		J. Whittall . .	C. Park . . .	8	1	1	4	14	
		D. Huggins . .	Park Hill . .	7	7	5	6	25	
		Paid their own passage		1	2	..	..	3	
				40	33	15	25	113	241 10 0
Sept. 1 .	Ruckers . .	A. Robertson .	Belmont . .	3	1	..	..	4	
		F. Winn . .	Cane Hall . .	..	1	..	2	3	
		J. Porter . .	Mt. Pleasant .	8	6	..	11	25	
		,,	Mt. Bentinck .	4	7	1	3	15	
		J. Whittall . .	Cam. Park . .	9	9	2	9	29	
		J. Reily . . .	Gomea . . .	1	1	..	..	2	
		J. Le Gall . .	Tourama . .	..	..	1	1	2	
		A. Cumming .	Bellvue . . .	..	2	..	2	4	
		C. Lediard . .	. .	..	1	1	..	2	No Bounty.
				25	28	5	28	86	108 0 0

GRAND TOTAL.

	Immigrants.	Bounty. £. s. d.
By the Eliza	142	370 0 0
,, Eliza	225	624 0 0
,, Catherine Elizabeth . .	102	286 0 0
,, Ruckers	37	108 0 0
,, Hallyards	138	366 0 0
,, James Cruikshank . .	144	372 0 0
,, Bolivar	38	84 0 0
,, Eliza	114	264 0 0
,, Catherine Elizabeth . .	164	478 0 0
,, Queen Victoria . . .	161	408 0 0
,, Clydeside	37	100 0 0
,, David Lyon	69	170 0 0
,, Eliza	155	333 0 0
,, Catherine Elizabeth . .	113	241 10 0
,, Ruckers	86	108 0 0
	1,725	4,312 10 0

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 13.

(No. 44.)

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor REID to Earl GREY.

Windward Islands, Barbados,
May 29, 1848.
(*Received July* 4, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the statistical returns in the Blue Book for the island of St. Lucia for the year 1847, along with Lieutenant-Governor Darling's Report.

Blue Book for 1847.

23rd May, 1848.
No. 61.
With map of St. Lucia.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. REID.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 13.

Enclosure in No. 13.

St. Lucia, Government House,
May 23, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1847, which has been placed in my hands by the Colonial Secretary since the last mail was despatched to Barbados.

This return has been usually completed at an earlier period of the year, and I believe the delay in the present instance is fairly attributable to the arrears of ordinary business in the Colonial Secretary's office, occasioned by the necessity of furnishing copies of numerous documents for the parties before the Court of Inquiry, of which Chief-Justice Arrindell was president, and during the proceedings of which it would appear that almost all other public business unavoidably stagnated.

Your Excellency is aware that I assumed the Lieutenant Government of the colony a few days after the expiration of the year which the Blue Book embraces, and I shall therefore, I trust, stand excused if this Report is more brief and imperfect than it would under other circumstances have been.

Under the Heads of Taxes and Duties.

The only variation which has taken place from those in force in 1846 appears to be an increase from five to seven and a half per cent. of the tax on the rental of houses in Castries; from four-pence to sixpence per hundred weight of the export duty on sugar; and of the stamp duty on "deeds of gift or donation inter vivos," in the case of a legitimate child to parent or other ascendant, from one per cent. to two per cent.; and in the case of illegitimate relations of the second or third degree, from six per cent. to eight per cent.; besides the imposition of an ad valorem duty, varying from two to ten per cent., according to nearness and legitimacy of relationship, upon all property, whether real or personal, and wherever situate or found, of persons resident or domiciled in the colony, dying in the colony or elsewhere, as well as upon all property within the colony of deceased persons not resident or domiciled in the colony.

The increase of the house tax from five to seven and a half per cent. was established for the purpose of meeting the increased expenditure occasioned by the interest and sinking fund (amounting together to an annual charge of 400*l.*) of the loan raised for the purpose of bringing water into the town of Castries.

The export duty was, I presume, raised in amount as an obvious mode of increasing the general revenue (although falling directly on the producer), an object which it fully accomplished; and the same motive, I conclude, dictated the increase in the stamp duty, and that upon the property of deceased persons.

With respect to the two last-mentioned duties, I venture to remark that they appear to recognize illegitimate relationship; a principle which I believe is a

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

OF

SAINT LUCIA

EXECUTED BY ORDER OF

His Excellency Lt. Col. Reid, C.B.

OF THE CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS,

Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands

&c. &c. &c.

BY DETAILLE AND JAMET.

MDCCCXLVII.

PROPERTIES IN CULTIVATION.

1st DISTRICT
1 Union
2 Choc
3 Vide Bouteille
4 Entrepot
5 Incommode
6 Soucis
7 La Pointe
8 Marigot
9 Perle
10 Perou
11 Mont d'Or
12 Roseau
13 Mont Plaisant
14 Anse Gallet
15 Deux Amis
16 L'Espérance

17 Anse Mahaut
18 Anse Mamin
19 Palmiste
20 Reunion
21 Rabis
22 Perle
23 Diamant
24 Soufrière
25 Morne Courbaril
26 Malgré tout
27 Rabot

3rd DISTRICT
28 Belle vue
29 Belle plaine
30 Imbert
31 Dauphine
32 Fond-doux
33 Pitons
34 Beau Séjour
35 Esperance
36 Chateau Belle-air
37 Union Vale
38 Anse Ivrogne
39 Delser
40 Reunion
41 Rivière D'orée
42 Des Gatières
43 Mon Lizard
44 Parc
45 Beausejour
46 Balanbouche
47 Saphir
48 Black Bay
49 Anse noir

4th DISTRICT
50 Tourny
51 Ressource
52 Retraite
53 Beau sejour
54 Beau sejour
55 Mon repos
56 Pointe Sable
57 Bellevue
58 Savanne
59 Cannelles
60 Fond Cajou
61 Beauchamp
62 Trou Masse
63 Mondesir
64 Volet

5th DISTRICT
65 Fond Laurèol
66 Orangerie
67 Praslin
68 Anse Canot
69 Fond d'or
70 La Caie
71 Richefond

2nd DISTRICT
72 Grande Anse
73 Marquis
74 Espérance
75 Cap
76 Bellevue
77 Beausejour
78 Bonneterre
79 Reduit
80 Bois d'Orange
81 Corinthe

Le Cap
Anse du Cap
Anse Bécune
Roche Noire
Pigeon Island
Signal Post & Battery
Anse Gallet
Gros Loup
Cap Nord
Cul-de-Sac de la Voute
Anse de la Voute
Pte Cicoraye
Islets aux Oeufs
Rade et Bourg du Gros Islet
Pte Rouge
Gd Gosier
Pte Daniel
Trou Gascon
Islet Fourcur
Trou Marie
Pte Trouvillon
Anse la Berlotte
Anse Basseau
Anse du Choc
Islet du Choc
Pte Destrées
Anse Grenadier
Cap Marquis
Pte Pelée
Port Dauphin
Anse Marquis
Marigot à Roche
Petite Anse Palmiste
Grande Anse Palmiste
Anse de la Sorcière
Anse de la Chaloupe
Trou Catin
Anse du Louvet
Anse Mabouya
Anse Dennery
Anse Canot
Anse Gallet
Pte Gallet
Anse de la Soufrière
Pte des Trois Islets
Trou Gras
Anse Patience
Anse Chapeau
Anse du Fond
Anse des Volets
Le Grand Gosier
Siaouay
Pte Siaouay
Anse Micoud
Anse Troumassé
Anse Jarre
Anse Boudin
Pte Lamare
Pte Solicroffre
Anse des Cannelles
Pte des Cannelles
Anse l'Islet
Pte Saltibus
Baie des Savânes
Pte des Savânes
Pte Sable
Anse Pte Sable
Islet Maria
Pte Moule-à-Chique
Port de Castries
Tapion Battery
Anse la Toque
Pte Serpent
Pte Courbaril
Anse Ferret
Baie du Grand Cul-de-Sac
Pte Bananes
Anse Massacre
Port du Marigot
Trou Roland
Anse des Roseaux
Anse Pilori
Trou Oranger
Anse Laraïe
Anse Gallet
Pte Chimacin
Anse Cochon
Anse la Verdure
Pte Iambette
Anse Canaries
Anse Bonnet
Anse Mahaut
Anse Jambon
Anse Mamin
Pte Mamin
Le Grand Bénitier
Pte Raquette
Port Soufrière
Petit Bénitier
Pte Petit Piton
Anse des 2 Pitons
Gros Piton 2710 ft.
Pte Beaumont
Anse l'Ivrogne
Pte Caraïbe
Trou Mare
Mahotière
Marigot à fouquet
Trou Babet
Choiseuil
Bois Chique
Rte Dorée
Balanbouche
Piaal
Saphyr
Bourg du Labories
Anse Noire
Vieux fort
Chemin de Castries au Marquis
Chemin de Castries au Dennery
Chemin de Soufrière au Vieux fort
Castries
CASTRIES
Fort Charlotte
Morne Fortune
Morne Barabara
Piton Flore 1530 ft.
Pitons des Canaries 2585 ft.
Grand Magazin 1467 ft.
Petit Piton 2680 ft.
Soufrière
1ST DISTRICT
2ND DISTRICT
3RD
4TH
5TH
DISTRICT

The Boundaries of the 5 Districts are represented by dotted lines, thus .....

Scales.

0 1000 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15000 Yards

0 1000 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15000 Pas de 3½ Pieds Français

novel one in English law, although its force has long been admitted in cases where the property of intestates without legitimate heirs has been conferred by the grace of the Crown.

At this period of West Indian history I cannot think it a wise policy to make any distinction in favour of illegitimate relations, or, indeed, to recognize them at all by law. Although the operation of the enactment may be very limited, yet it cannot be said to harmonize with the efforts which have been made with so much perseverance to raise the moral standard of the people, and for the accomplishment of which one of the most obvious and effectual means would seem to be, not only to make the marriage state respected, but to let those who enter upon it feel that it brings with it civil and personal advantages.

Under the Head of Fees.

The fees taken by the district and superior Courts of Appeal are stated in addition to those included in the return for 1846.

In the district Courts of Appeal these fees are paid to the clerks and officers of the Court, and in the superior Court they are paid to the registrar, and constitute his remuneration for the duties of office.

A comparison of the revenue with that of 1846 shows the following results:—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1846:						
Total revenue as returned . . .				17,304	18	2
Less:						
Balance from 1845 . . .	2,716	16	11			
Arrears of 1845 . . .	1,025	10	3			
				3,742	7	2
Actual revenue of 1846 .				£13,562	11	0
1847:						
Total revenue as returned				14,738	8	8
Less:						
Balance from 1846				2,054	3	1
Actual revenue of 1847 . . .				£12,684	5	7

Showing an excess in favour of 1846 of 878*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

This apparent excess in favour of 1846 is almost altogether attributable to the falling off in the amount actually paid into the treasury as duty on rum consumed in the island in the year 1847. A sum of about 1100*l.* under that head remained, however, unpaid at the end of the year, the greater part of which has since been realized, and which at once converts the decrease of revenue into an increase. The only other head of decrease of any importance is that of imports, and this is more than counterbalanced by the increase in the duty of exports.

I find that the tax on the rental of houses in towns, and that on cultivated land, have always been returned under the head of fixed revenue. I apprehend, however, that these taxes are incorrectly so classified, as they are annually imposed by the usual tax ordinance; and in the case of the land tax, the rate, as I have already pointed out, has been variable.

	£.	s.	d.
The total amount raised by direct taxes for the year 1847 appears to have been . . .	5,359	11	6
Rent of Government property	170	0	0
Refunded by the Colonial Treasurer, pay overdrawn	149	0	0
Amount raised by indirect taxation . . .	7,005	14	1
Making a total revenue collected, as already shown	£12,684	5	7

ST. LUCIA.

The total amount of revenue uncollected, and which will appear as arrears in the accounts for 1848, is about 1550*l.*

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
The expenditure on account of the ordinary and fixed expense of the departments of Government was	12,812	12	8¾
For contingent and accidental expenses . .	1,102	19	7
On account of miscellaneous civil services . .	444	18	3½
Making a total of	14,360	10	7½
Besides an arrear of expenditure from 1846, amounting to	317	19	10
Making a total of . . .	£14,678	10	5¼

a sum which was more than covered by the revenue actually collected and the balance of revenue from the previous year.

Excluding in both cases the arrears from previous years, the expenditure of 1847 appears to have been about 200*l.* less than that of 1846.

It must be observed, that, with the exception of fees paid to the Roman Catholic clergy for performing the offices of the Church, and the contributions, either in labour or money, which every able-bodied male between the ages of 16 and 60 is bound to give for the formation and repair of roads, this expenditure includes every charge in the shape of taxes which is made upon the inhabitants, and provides for many purposes which are usually met by local assessments.

Thus the relief of the poor, the stipends of the clergy, assistance to schools, the annual payments on account of the works for bringing water into the town of Castries, the repairs of the wharves and erection of bridges in that town, are embraced in the expenditure, and amount in all to upwards of 4200*l.*, or a sum little short of one-third of the whole. It will be seen, however, that assuming the population at 23,000, which I believe to be below rather than above the actual number, and the amount raised by taxation including the uncollected taxes, being 14,000*l.*, that the taxation for the year shows a per-capita rate of about (12*s.*) twelve shillings; and as nearly one-half of the revenue was raised by direct taxation on the owners of estates, houses in towns, and ships, the mass of the people generally would seem to enjoy the advantages of civil government at a charge of which they have no reason to complain.

During the year 1847 Great Britain contributed to the maintenance of the civil establishment of the colony the sum of 3045*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, and incurred on account of its military protection the sum of 12,131*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, making altogether a charge of 15,177*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* on the revenues of the mother country, while 14,360*l.* 10*s.* 7½*d.* was the amount defrayed by the colony.

I perceive on reference to the returns that the average expenditure of the last three years on account of military protection alone is 16,157*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

Population.

The population of the colony is returned at 22,545 souls, of whom 21,405 are Africans or of African descent.

By the Census of 1844 the total number of inhabitants was estimated at 21,001. The information with respect to births and deaths is, I fear, very inaccurate, and cannot be relied upon in computing the probable increase. Those persons most likely to form a correct opinion on the subject agree in placing the population at about 23,000, as I have already stated; of these, 4313 are supposed to be habitually engaged in agriculture, 1376 are returned as employed in manufactures; but the term applies only in this colony to the manufacture of sugar and rum, and the persons employed (with few exceptions) engage indiscriminately in the cultivation of the cane as well as in the manufacture of its juice.

When I estimate the total number of children under 16 years of age at 8000, I have probably taken the minimum; and it will be seen with regret that the return under the head of Education—

Education

gives only out of this number 520 children in all receiving education at schools; of these, 156 are infants. The education which the remaining 364 received during the year appears to have cost no less a sum than 101*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, or rather more than 2*l.* 15*s.* a head.

The juvenile schools included in this return are those conducted by the trustees of Lady Mico's charity, out of the funds of which a sum of between 500*l.* and 600*l.* is appropriated to educational purposes in Saint Lucia, and this appropriation has, since the year 1845, been met by an annual contribution of 500*l.* from the colonial revenue.

I am sorry to say that a comparison with the returns of the years 1845 and 1846 exhibits a falling off rather than an increase in the number of attendants on these schools. I believe this may be attributed to the fact that one of the schools has, in consequence of the death of the master, been unavoidably closed.

I fear, however, that the difficulty of obtaining good masters, which is common to all the West Indian colonies, is not the only one we have to contend with in Saint Lucia in an attempt to raise the standard of intelligence of the rising generation.

The total number of Protestants in a population of 23,000 people is about 600; and I am convinced I am far below the fact when I say that there are not 1000 persons (excluding the troops) in the whole community who speak and understand the English language.

I am only aware of three schools at which any effort is made by the religious teachers of the great mass of the people to impart secular education, and in one of these no attempt is made to teach the imperial language.

I mean not to reflect, in the remotest degree, upon the course which these reverend gentlemen pursue in the conscientious discharge of their duty; but I entertain a strong opinion that little will be effected without their co-operation in the important work of popular education.

I have already strongly expressed my sentiments on this question generally to the legislative council, and I shall lose no opportunity of endeavouring to secure their advice and assistance in the furtherance of a cause, upon the success of which it is impossible to doubt the future prosperity of the community must mainly depend.

There is much energy and zeal applied to the conduct of the infant schools; but I fear that the state of financial matters generally will occasion a withdrawal of a portion of those voluntary contributions by which they have hitherto been maintained. That they are the most effectual instruments by which the general use of the imperial language will be established cannot be questioned; but even to effect this object, however remotely, co-operative measures of various kinds are obviously called for.

The Ecclesiastical Return

shows that, for a Roman Catholic population of 22,400 people, out of which about 6000 generally attend public worship, eight curés are paid in the whole a sum of 800*l.* a-year out of the colonial revenue; and that for a Protestant population of about 600, out of whom 340 generally attend public worship, three Protestant clergymen receive from the colonial revenue a sum of 600*l.*

The Roman Catholic curés receive, moreover, fees from their flocks, of which in some instances no returns, and in others very imperfect ones, are made; and each is provided with a residence, denominated "the Presbytery."

The Protestant clergymen receive assistance from funds at the disposal of the Bishop, and one of them is also garrison chaplain, for which he receives an allowance of 127*l.* a-year.

The disproportion between the number of Protestant clergymen and of those who attend their ministry is occasioned by the circumstance that the Protestant population, though small, is settled in three different districts of the island.

Besides the eight Roman Catholic priests receiving stipends from the colonial revenue, there are two assistants to the curé of the parish of Saint Florent, in which the town of Castries is situated; one of these receives 120*l.* per annum from the parish, and 10*s.* a-week as chaplain to the Roman Catholic portion of the garrison.

ST. LUCIA.

Four of the parochial curés are natives of Ireland, and four of French birth, speaking English not at all, and understanding it to a very limited extent.

Imports and Exports.

The official value of the imports of the year is given at 70,251*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, and that of exports at 116,439*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; of the latter, however, it appears upon examination that a value of 5802*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* consisted of imported articles, thus making the *bonâ fide* imports and exports stand thus:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Imports	64,448	8	8
Exports	110,636	17	9

Being an excess in the value of exports over imports of 46,187*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*

In a colony, however, where the land from which this excess is derived is either to a great extent owned by or heavily mortgaged to parties resident in the mother country, I fear that the balance of trade, although apparently in favour of the colony, is no proof of its internal prosperity, as none of the surplus returns can be devoted to schemes either for the moral or material advancement of the people.

The gross imports were one-fourth lower, and the gross exports more than one-third higher, in official value, than those of 1846.

The decrease in the imports appears to have taken place entirely under the head of goods of "the growth, produce, and manufacture of the United Kingdom," imported directly from thence.

The quantity of sugar and rum exported was greater, I believe, than was ever before on record, the seasons having been unusually propitious; thus accounting, notwithstanding the lower value of the former article in 1847, for the increase in the total value of the exports.

Under the head of Gaols and Prisoners

I have no observations to offer beyond those contained in my Despatch, No. 18, of the 7th March last, transmitting the Inspector's annual report, and a transcript of the return inserted in the accompanying Blue Book.

Admitting its defects with regard to hospital accommodation, I consider the gaol to be a very well-regulated institution, and reflecting great credit upon those who have immediate charge of it.

I am fully sensible that this report very inadequately meets the instruction, that it should exhibit generally "the past and present state of the colony, and "its prospects in every political branch;" but considering my limited local experience, the consequent immaturity of my opinions, the doubtful prospects and depressed energies of that class of the colonists in whom almost exclusively the property and intelligence of the colony are united, and without whose zealous co-operation the future holds out but little prospect of improvement, I think I shall do more justice to the colonial interests, and better fulfil my duty to Her Majesty's Government, if I limit my present report to the few preceding remarks explanatory of the actual condition of the colony at the end of the year to which the Blue Book relates.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. H. DARLING,
Lieut.-Governor.

ANTIGUA.

(No. 35.) No. 14.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, June 1, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received July* 4, 1848.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of this island for the year 1847, which appears to have been prepared with the care heretofore bestowed on this document by the officer whose duty it is to compile it.

The returns furnished exhibit a trifling increase in the estimated value of imports, and a very large augmentation in that of exports, as compared with the previous year: the return of imports being 217,998*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* in 1847, as against 213,967*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* in 1846; and of exports 369,590*l.* 10*s.* in 1847, against 177,520*l.* 10*s.* in 1846. The slight difference in the value of imports, 4031*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, does not require particular notice, further than as indicating no diminution of consumption in the past year.

The staple or sugar crop of 1847 reached 14,775 hogsheads, 1278 tierces, and 3227 barrels; that of 1846, 7171 hogsheads, 627 tierces, and 1368 barrels, giving in favour of 1847 an increase of 7604 hogsheads, 651 tierces, and 1859 barrels. This will sufficiently explain the cause of the great difference in the estimated value of exports for the two years; as it also shows that the expectation which I ventured to hold out in my last annual Report of the crops of 1846 and 1847, taken together, averaging that of 1845, has been realized.

I regret that there is reason to apprehend that this year's crop may fall short, in consequence of the long-continued drought, which proved injurious to the plant, both in its early stages and subsequently. From the same cause it will also be a late one, as up to the 26th ultimo 3330 hogsheads only have been shipped.

For the usual return of comparative annual receipts and expenditure, another form has been substituted in the pages under these heads, for the reason explained by the treasurer; but a separate statement is annexed, affording the information required. From this it will be found that the revenue for 1847 amounted to 34,154*l.* 18*s.* 2½*d.*, exceeding that of 1846 by 4365*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, from which, however, ought to be deducted the amount of a loan, 7582*l.* 4*s.* 1½*d.*, raised in the past year, and 1079*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, deposited by the savings' bank, reducing the ordinary income of 1847 to 25,493*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* The expenditure of 1846 and 1847 is very nearly balanced, being respectively 37,384*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* and 37,237*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* Of this latter sum 11,946*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.* appear to come under the head of extraordinary charges, and not to be estimated for in the expenditure of future years, diminishing the aggregate amount of ordinary expenditure to 25,291*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.*; the ordinary income being, as stated above, 25,493*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*

The interest on the public debt, with arrears, amounting to 2282*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.*, and ultimate liquidation of the principal, aggregating 27,442*l.* 10*s.*, of which 20,000*l.* is the earthquake loan from the Imperial Government, are charges not included in the foregoing estimate; but it is expected that when the colony is relieved from the burden of maintaining the Imperial Customs' establishment, no further financial embarrassment need be apprehended.

No new public works have been undertaken in the past year. The cathedral and parish church of St. John's has been completed, and was opened for the celebration of Divine service on the 10th of October last. The cost of erecting this building, which has exceeded 35,000*l.* sterling, has proved a heavy drain on the public resources; and the effects of this extravagance will, I fear, be sensibly felt for some time to come.

Want of means retards the restoration of other churches, destroyed or injured by the calamitous visitation of 1843; but I am not aware that inconvenience is now experienced anywhere from insufficiency of church accommodation.

The repairs of public roads are progressing satisfactorily under the operation

ANTIGUA.

of the Act passed last year, transferring their direction and control from the parochial authorities to the executive, assisted by a Board of Commissioners. The annual sums appropriated to this service have been, by a more recent enactment, reduced, but not to a greater extent than ought to be met by the greatly diminished cost of labour; and the reduction, therefore, is not likely to interfere with the beneficial working of the original measure.

It affords me great satisfaction to be able to report that the general conduct of the labouring classes continues to merit the commendation heretofore bestowed on it, although I regret to add that the prison returns exhibit an increase both in the number of commitments and convictions, chiefly for petty larcenies, which may be accounted for in some degree by the greater difficulty experienced in earning a livelihood since the reduction of wages, and also by their inability, arising from the same cause, to pay the fines imposed by the police courts for various minor offences, in default of which they are committed to gaol.

The common gaol and house of correction, forming one prison, may be safely pronounced, considering the means of the colony, a very creditable institution. The discipline has latterly been improved by more efficient superintendence, procured by the augmentation of the subordinate officers' salaries, which has, on my suggestion, been sanctioned by the Legislature; and also by the alterations recently made, with your Lordship's approval, in the regulations for the government of the prison.

The residents of free or independent villages, that is, those detached from estates, so many of which have sprung up in this island since emancipation, have not increased within the year; and I am informed that in some instances the labourers have quitted them, and returned to settle on estates. I do not, however, believe that their desire to become possessed of land is less ardent, but their means of purchasing are more limited. I observe that the objections at one time entertained by proprietors to selling small building lots appear to have been removed; in some cases, portions of estates thus disposed of have realized more than could have been obtained from them in any other manner.

On the progress of education I lament that it is not in my power to report more favourably. Parents are less able to contribute towards the support of schools, and the Legislature have not yet made any grant from public funds in aid of them; but I encourage the hope that this may hereafter be accomplished whenever the island recovers from the pecuniary embarrassments by which her means of promoting objects of public utility are now sadly circumscribed. The imparting of useful knowledge and of industrial training to the rising generation ought, in my estimation, to take precedence of all others; and being keenly alive to its vast importance, whether as affecting the employers of labour or the employed, I shall omit no opportunity of bringing the question prominently forward, and of advocating its serious and careful consideration.

The school returns show that in 1846 there were under instruction, of some kind or other, 6342 children, and in 1847, 6493; but being desirous to ascertain more minutely what effect the general reduction of wages may have had on the cause of education, I addressed the ministers of the Church of England and of the Moravian and Wesleyan churches on the subject. A copy of my communication, with their replies, is annexed, from which it is satisfactory to learn that in their opinion, and no persons have better opportunities of forming a correct one, the effect has not been so unfavourable as might have been expected, either as regards the advancement of education or the physical and social condition of the working classes.

4

I ought to mention that during the past year a training school has been opened by the Moravian mission, into which children of a tender age are admitted as boarders, and where it is intended they shall remain until their education be completed, the object being to qualify them for the duties of teachers. The institution is yet in infancy, but it has commenced under favourable auspices, and there seems no reason to doubt its ultimate success.

No immigrants have been introduced into this island, either from Madeira or elsewhere, subsequently to the date of the return forwarded to your Lordship with my Despatch, General, No. 8, of the 8th October last, nor do I understand that any more are at present expected. In the existing state of the labour market, there seems to be no object in importing them, and certainly no profit.

The contracts under which the Portuguese were hired secure them double

the amount of wages that the negro labourer is now receiving; and as on the expiration of these contracts, which were by law limited to one year's duration, the Portuguese will generally fall back to the reduced rate of sixpence per day, I am apprehensive that they may then experience considerable disappointment, and some difficulty, in supporting themselves and families. They appear to be an orderly and well-conducted people, and have, with rare exceptions, given satisfaction to their employers, by whom, I have reason to believe, they have been well taken care of. There is no emigration-agent here, to whom I could apply for specific information on this head, but I have personally visited the estates on which the immigrants are located, and I saw no reason to question their being well treated. The very few complaints which I have received from them, proved on investigation to be unfounded. Diseases, chiefly fever and dysentery, have at times prevailed, and some have, of course, sunk under them; but it cannot, I think, be said that on the whole the climate has proved inimical. As I have stated on a former occasion, they continue to live on terms of amity and good fellowship with the negroes, by whom, however, I understand they are rather looked down upon; which is by no means improbable, for humility is not one of the virtues that can be claimed for the emancipated race, even by their most enthusiastic admirers.

I alluded in my former annual Report to the establishment of a savings'-bank, which your Lordship will perceive, from the annexed report of the actuary, has, to some extend, found favour with the working classes, for whose benefit the institution was more particularly designed. In connexion with the savings'-bank I may mention, that the friendly societies, which have been productive of so much good, continue in beneficial operation, under the guidance of the different Gospel Ministers to whose churches they are respectively attached, and by whom they have been long sedulously fostered and carefully watched over.

Vide Annual Reports on the Colonial Blue Books, presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command, July, 1847, p. 47.

June 1, 1848.

Although no prominent measure may be alleged to have distinguished the legislation of the past year, several useful enactments have been passed; the deliberations of the Council and Assembly being guided by that just and liberal spirit which has long characterized their proceedings.

In reference to the agricultural and commercial condition of the colony generally, and to its future prospects, I have little to add to the Report which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 26th December last, in forwarding a petition from the Legislative Council and Assembly to the Imperial Parliament, except that I think I have latterly perceived some glimmerings of returning confidence, which have moved but not yet dissipated the thick fog of gloom and despair, and I may say of utter hopelessness, which at that time universally prevailed.

For Governor Higginson's Report, Dec. 26, 1847, *vide* Papers ordered by the House of Lords to be printed, June 27, 1848, No. 250, p. 366. Ditto ditto House of Commons, Mar. 14, 1848, No. 167, p. 350.

I stated in the Despatch to which I refer, that wages for field-work had been reduced from 1*s*. 10*d*. to 8*d*. and 6*d*. per day; immediately afterwards they fell still lower, and have since remained stationary at 6*d*. This, with retrenchments made in other branches of expenditure, will materally diminish the cost of production. The more general introduction of implemental husbandry would also conduce to the same end, but not so largely as when the cost of manual labour stood at former high prices. Although some experienced and successful planters adhere to the old methods of tillage, the advocates of the more modern system are increasing; the economy and superior advantages of which must ultimately secure its general adoption.

In the manufacturing process no substantial change has been made for many years; improvements have from time to time been attempted, but not with encouraging results; and although it has been proved elsewhere, and is here admitted, that both the quantity and quality of the sugar can be enhanced by the aid of chemical science, suitably and practically applied, very few proprietors are now in a position to incur the outlay involved in the purchase and erection of the new and expensive machinery indispensable to the accomplishment of the object in view.

The Hoe and Harrow Company, adverted to in previous communications, has, as I anticipated, been dissolved; and I fear with considerable loss to the shareholders. And I am also concerned to state, that the General Agricultural Society, reorganized, and, as I anxiously hoped, invigorated, in the end of 1846, has not met with that advocacy and support which so valuable an association ought to have commanded.

ANTIGUA.

The issue of the struggle in which the employers of free labour are now engaged, depends so materially upon the cost at which the staples can be brought to market, that it would be interesting if an accurate estimate of the expense could be formed; which is however extremely difficult, the cost of production being affected by so many various contingencies. For instance, the nature of the soil, more fertile or more easily worked on some estates than on others; the uncertainty of the seasons as affecting both the growth of the plant and the saving of the crop, estates here, with few exceptions, being dependent upon wind-mills; the command of continuous labour when most urgently needed, and of capital to employ it in the most economical manner. In addition to these local circumstances, there are other causes which operate in augmenting or diminishing outlay; the rates of freight which more open competition would tend to lower, the charges in the merchant's account sales, which I venture to think are also susceptible of reduction, and the position of the estate, whether free and unembarrassed, or crushed by mortgages and other incumbrances, which latter condition it must be admitted is that of the majority.

The extreme severity of the ordeal to which West India proprietors have been and are still subjected, is undeniable, and cannot be endured without great sacrifices. The prevailing opinion here undoubtedly is, that unless free labour produce be protected, the majority of estates must be abandoned; but I incline to believe that the worst has passed. Although I view the withdrawal of protection as a heavy blow struck at the employers of free labour, and cannot therefore concur in opinion with those who undervalue that boon, I am not prepared to assert that the benefits conferred by it were not unmixed with evil, as rendering the planter more dependent on extraneous aid than on his own exertions and resources. The uncertainty attending its continuance also operated injuriously, tending to unsettle men's minds, and to interfere with the concentration of their energies and means; when their critical position demanded the utmost unity of action, and the most energetic and well-directed measures to secure their safety, and to meet the altered circumstances in which they were about to be placed. A spirit of enterprize and inquiry has certainly been awakened, both in the islands and the mother country, which was not called forth under the protective system. And the paramount necessity of the greatest practicable economy and retrenchment being brought to bear on every branch of expenditure, has now arrested univeral attention.

In this island, and I believe I may include the others comprising the general Government, I hear of no well-grounded complaints of difficulty in obtaining labour at the low rate of wages now current; that they can bear no further reduction is admitted by all, and there seems as little reason to suppose that they will be raised again for some time to come. If, in addition to the cost of labour thus diminished by one-half, all shipping restrictions be removed, and sugar and molasses be admitted for consumption in both breweries and distilleries, and the duty on colonial and home manufactured spirits be equalized, and all protection, whether in favour of or against the sugar grower be withdrawn, and immigration facilitated, when and wherever the supply of labour may not equal the demand, I conceive that an opportunity would then present itself of bringing the "quæstio vexata" fairly to issue, namely, whether under most favourable circumstances free-labour produce can be profitably maintained, without the aid of a differential duty against that introduced from slave-holding countries.

It would be presumptuous in me to offer a decided opinion upon this most important and intricate question; but having considered the subject with great care and anxious attention, I do not hesitate to record my conviction, that the apprehensions entertained in some quarters of the general abandonment of sugar cultivation is groundless; as well as my belief that, under the Divine blessing, the condition of these valuable possessions of the Crown will gradually improve, and ultimately regain their former prosperity.

It may be said that I am more sanguine than present appearances will warrant, and that I rely with too much confidence on the extreme fertility of the soil, its peculiar adaptation to the culture of the sugar-cane, and other resources now in course of development, or that I place too high a value on the indomitable spirit and perseverance of my fellow-countrymen; this may be so, and will be tested by the result. But in the meanwhile it will be satis-

factory to Her Majesty's Government to be assured, amid the spirit of anarchy and revolt pervading surrounding nations, that whether they are bowed down by adversity or cheered by prosperity, the Sovereign of the powerful empire to which it is their pride to belong, reigns over no more loyal and devoted subjects than the inhabitants of Her colonies in the Charibbean sea.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

Encl. 1 in No. 14.

Saint John's Savings' Bank,
June 1, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a statement of the present condition of this institution.

I regret to state that the Bank has not progressed during the last half year in the same ratio as at the commencement; in consequence, no doubt, of the circumstances of the labouring people having undergone such a change as rendered them not only unable to save, but compelled them to draw on their previous savings. The additions to the deposit amount during the last six months have been made chiefly by friendly societies, while the drafts have been almost exclusively those of individual depositors belonging to the industrial classes.

The whole amount deposited from the period at which the Bank commenced its operations, say 22nd March, 1847, to the present date, is 2356*l*, sterling, of which there now remains 1501*l*. 12*s*. 7*d*., to the credit of the following accounts:—

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
140 individuals of the working classes .	1018 3 11	
St. Philip's Friendly Society . . .	180 3 8	
St. James' Friendly Society . . .	35 19 8	
Parham Mechanics' Institution . . .	55 0 0	
		1289 7 3
Destitute Strangers' Fund		1 15 1
Mutual Life Assurance Company		210 10 3
		£1501 12 7

I have, &c,
(Signed) J. F. SMYTH, Actuary.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

REVENUE, AMOUNTS, and COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

—	For Year, to 30th Sept., 1846.	From 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th July, 1847.	From 6th July to 5th Oct., 1847.	Aggregate from 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th Oct., 1847.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Record Tax	469 4 3½	170 19 5½	..	170 19 5½	..	298 4 10
Street Tax	488 9 11½	178 10 8½	..	178 10 8½	..	309 19 3
Duty on Liquor Licences	1,345 10 0	858 0 0	306 13 2¾	1,164 13 2¾	..	180 16 9¼
Duty on Sugar Licences	7 10 6	4 10 10½	1 1 6	5 12 4½	..	1 18 1½
Public Fines	1,197 18 7	748 6 8½	2 13 0	750 19 8½	..	446 18 10½
Powder Duty	148 11 4	80 6 10	..	80 6 10	..	68 4 6
Receipts of Foreign Duties from Her Majesty's Customs	5,545 12 10½	3,769 3 5	1,383 2 7	5,152 6 0	..	393 6 10½
Receipts from Harbour Masters	23 7 4	12 10 1	8 8 0	20 18 1	..	2 9 8
Duty on Pedler's Licences	71 10 4	51 6 8	24 8 0	75 14 8	4 4 4	..
Duty on Shooting Licences	64 14 4	5 9 8½	34 0 0	39 9 8½	..	25 4 7½
Arrears of Taxes	58 16 1	57 1 2	..	57 1 2	..	1 14 11
Receipts of Surplus Tonnage, Duty from Her Majesty's Customs	1,595 11 2½	839 14 4¾	..	839 14 4¾	..	755 16 9¾
Tariff Duties	18,281 0 2½	11,791 2 5	4,816 14 8	16,607 17 1	..	1,673 3 1½
Interest Account	481 12 6	72 19 0	..	72 19 0	..	408 13 6
Public Loan	..	3,739 8 7½	3,842 15 6	7,582 4 1½	7,582 4 1½	..
Savings' Banks	..	632 14 2¾	446 16 8¼	1,079 10 11	1,079 10 11	..
Receipts from Provost Marshal	..	232 6 11	..	232 6 11	232 6 11	..
Governor's Fees, contributed by His Excellency	..	43 13 10	..	43 13 10	43 13 10	..
Cistern Tax	9 18 11	..	..	..	..	9 18 11
Total	29,789 8 5½	23,288 5 0½	10,866 13 2	34,154 18 2½	8,942 0 1½	4,576 10 4½

Remarks.—Although there has been a decrease in the amount of several items, such as the Colonial Tariff Duties, the Imperial Duties, and the Surplus Tonnage Duty from Her Majesty's Customs, &c., the increase shown upon this statement arises from a loan contracted, and from deposits made by the Savings' Bank.

EXPENDITURE, AMOUNTS, and COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

—	For Year to 30th Sept., 1846.	From 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th July, 1847.	From 6th July, to 5th Oct., 1847.	Aggregate from 1st Oct., 1846, to 5th Oct., 1847.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salaries and fees to public officers	5,534 1 3½	3,825 14 10½	1,224 14 8½	5,050 9 7	..	483 11 8½
Police establishment	4,471 0 8½	3,750 14 4	874 15 6	4,625 9 10	154 9 1½	..
Expense of streets	797 14 2½	350 7 4	..	350 7 4	..	447 6 10½
Expense of buildings	212 0 8½	129 11 1½	6 5 0	135 16 1½	..	76 4 7
Pensions and donations	2,366 17 6	640 15 3	119 19 11	760 15 2	..	1,606 2 4
Highways	4,258 3 10	3,275 15 5	2,058 8 10¾	5,334 4 3¾	1,076 0 5¾	..
Fire engines	673 0 9½	60 0 0	160 0 0	220 0 0	..	453 0 9½
Fort James	334 10 11	244 7 0	88 17 8½	333 4 8½	..	1 6 2½
Fort George	132 0 6	67 10 0	20 0 0	87 10 0	..	44 10 6
Fort Byam	274 15 9	115 6 1½	24 8 10½	139 15 0	..	135 0 9
Fort Johnson's Point	60 0 0	45 0 0	13 1 8	58 1 8	..	1 18 4
Fort Old Road	63 0 0	47 5 0	14 0 0	61 5 0	..	1 15 0
Goat Hill Battery	88 13 7½	61 13 0	16 6 8	77 19 8	..	10 13 11½
Rat Island Signal Staff	95 13 9½	45 0 0	13 6 8	58 6 8	..	37 7 1½
Public printing	188 17 4½	100 2 1½	10 12 0	110 14 1½	..	78 3 3
Parish of St. John	1,840 11 5	1,232 15 9	187 10 0	1,420 5 9	..	420 5 8
Parish of St. Peter	150 7 0	123 8 9	23 12 2½	147 0 11½	..	3 6 0½
Parish of St. George	95 16 6	47 18 3	21 5 11	69 4 2	..	26 12 4
Parish of St. Mary	123 1 6	92 6 1½	27 7 0	119 13 1½	..	3 8 4½
Parish of St. Philip	239 6 0	119 13 0	..	119 13 0	..	119 13 0
Parish of St. Paul	410 5 0	205 2 6	91 3 4	296 5 10	..	113 19 2
Common gaol	1,790 11 4½	1,509 0 0½	456 16 9	1,965 16 9½	175 5 5	..
Books for Register of Deeds	5 8 0	5 0 10½	..	5 0 10½	..	0 7 1½
Books for Clerk of Assembly	..	2 14 0	..	2 14 0	2 14 0	..
Endowed school	375 0 0	450 0 0	37 10 0	487 10 0	112 10 0	..
All Saints Chapelry	282 13 1½	295 6 3	87 10 0	382 16 3	100 3 1½	..
Lunatic Asylum	657 7 7½	610 4 11½	164 10 4½	774 15 4	117 7 8½	..
Expenses from earthquake	11,732 3 2	7,730 18 9½	2,060 8 4	9,791 7 1½	..	1,940 16 0½
Expense of lighthouse	29 12 10	25 10 5½	..	25 10 5½	..	4 2 4½
Expense of printing and binding 4th vol. of laws	..	107 16 5	..	107 16 5	107 16 5	..
Bounty on Immigration	..	46 2 6	659 10 0	705 12 6	705 12 6	..
Expenses for reception of Governor Higginson	..	222 10 6½	..	222 10 6½	222 10 6½	..
Drawback duties	..	836 8 1½	333 12 4	1,170 0 5½	1,170 0 5½	..
Purchase of Hyndmand's land	..	1,125 0 0	..	1,125 0 0	1,125 0 0	..
Cost of iron tanks for Court-house	..	743 16 0¾	63 9 3	807 5 3¾	807 5 3¾	..
Public loan	..	..	58 8 0	58 8 0	58 8 0	..
Interest account	..	..	28 17 3	28 17 3	28 17 3	..
Expenses under Dissenters' Marriage Act	6 9 2	..	..	..	..	6 9 2
Expenses for reception of Lieut.-Governor Cunningham	95 10 6	..	..	..	..	95 10 6
	37,384 14 2½	28,290 14 11¾	8,946 8 4¼	37,237 3 4	5,964 0 4	6,111 11 2½

Remark.—The trifling decrease exhibited on this statement occurs from the ordinary fluctuations in the amounts of the respective branches.

Encl. 2 in No. 14.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

Government House, St. John's,
May 24, 1848.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE Governor requests that you will have the goodness, at your early convenience, to answer the following queries:—

Have any schools connected with the Church of England been discontinued during the past or present year?

Has the attendance at the day-schools been more or less regular than in previous years, and to what do you attribute the increase or decrease of numbers?

Since the reduction of wages, is greater difficulty experienced in exacting payment of tuition fees from parents?

What effect generally do you conceive that the reduction of wages has had upon the moral and physical condition of the labouring classes?

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. H. HIGGINSON,
Private Secretary.

The Venerable Archdeacon Holberton,
Antigua.

A similar letter addressed to the Rev. James Cox, Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission, and to the Rev. G. W. Westerby, Superintendent of the Moravian Mission.

Antigua, June 5, 1848.

ANSWERS to the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF's Inquiries concerning the present State of the SCHOOLS connected with the Church of England and the Condition of the LABOURING PEOPLE.

Q. Have any schools connected with the Church of England been discontinued during the past or present year?—*A.* Three or four to my knowledge.

Q. Has the attendance at the day schools been more or less regular than in previous years, and to what do you attribute the increase or decrease of numbers?—*A.* To the Rectory School and National School for boys there has been a small accession in consequence of the discon-

tinuance of schools in villages in the vicinity of St. John's. But from these schools, and others in the country, some children have been kept away for want of clothes, and others have been sent irregularly for want of food supplied in time for their breakfast or for their lunch, which the children are in the habit of bringing with them to school.

Q. What effect generally do you conceive that the reduction of wages has had upon the mind and physical condition of the labouring classes?—*A.* Since the reduction of wages there have been less revellings among the people because the means for keeping them up have not been at their command. I am not aware that the physical condition of the people has suffered. They have worked at their provision grounds very industriously, and, if it pleases God to bless the land with rain, they will be enabled by the sale of arrow-root, vegetables, and even canes of their own growing, as well as by the sale of pigs and poultry, to make out with the reduced wages they are at present receiving. If a drought prevailed there is no doubt that the people would suffer much as the poor in England during a severe winter.

(Signed) Robt. Holberton,
Rector of St. John's, and Archdeacon of Antigua.

My dear Sir, St. John's, June 1, 1848.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 24th May, and to submit the following replies to the queries of his Excellency the Governor-General.

1. One school was relinquished during the past year, and one was commenced in another locality.

2. There is considerable irregularity of attendance on the schools. The parents requiring their children sometimes for domestic purposes, and at other times for remunerated labour; and since the reduction of wages this evil has increased.

3. We experience "great difficulty" in obtaining the small weekly payment for tuition, and especially since the people have received such a pittance of compensation for daily labour. And I may add, that the diminished resources of our Missionary Society in England (arising from the pressure of the times), and the consequent diminution of their grant to us for school purposes, will probably lead to the dissolution of many of our schools next year; unless the financial resources of the people are improved, or unless we obtain aid from the Colonial Legislature. And the latter we can hardly hope for, knowing the embarrassed condition of the public Treasury. The reduction in the amount of our people's contributions for the support of the ministry also, has been so distressing, that we have been anticipating the removal of one from the number of our four missionaries now labouring in Antigua, and the withdrawal altogether of the missionary from Montserrat.

4. As to the effect of the diminution of wages on the labouring classes, I am induced to think that their economical savings in past years, and their industry in cultivating their own grounds, and in keeping stock, &c., have generally enabled them to sustain the pressure of this calamity without much physical injury: but I think it is impossible for it to continue without serious evils of every description. The force of religious principle on the religious part of the community has prevented much moral evil, and inspired contentment and patience.

I shall be happy to reply to any other inquiries his Excellency may be pleased to institute.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) James Cox.

C. H. Higginson, Esq.,
Private Secretary.

Sir, June 8, 1848.

Yesterday, on my arrival in St. John's from St. Kitts, the Rev. A. Hamilton placed in my hands your letter of the 24th of May last, together with the answers received from our ministers at the various stations in this island to the questions contained in the letter, the substance of which I enclose for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

I should have sent the answers at an early hour of this day, had I not been called into the country on duty.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. W. Westerby,
Superintendent of the Moravian Mission in Antigua.

C. H. Higginson, Esq.,
Private Secretary.

Answers to the Questions.

1. No schools in connection with this mission have been discontinued.

2. The attendance at the day-schools is much less than usual. We attribute the decrease of numbers to—1st. The inability of many on account of the present low wages to pay the school-fees. 2nd. The sending of children to some kind of work to increase the income of the family.

3. Much greater difficulty is experienced in obtaining the school fees, and the present income of the schools is much less than last year.

4. We have not yet perceived the effects of the reduction of wages on the moral and physical condition of the people, though it is to be feared that if the present state of things continue as at present, its influence upon our people, both in a moral and physical point of view, will be grievously seen and felt before long.

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

No. 15. (No. 9.) No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Government House, St. John's,
March 10, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received April* 5, 1848.)

1. I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1847.

2. I also submit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's despatch which accompanied it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 15. (No. 8.) Enclosure in No. 15.

Government House, St. Christopher's,
March 6, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1847.

I do not discover in its pages anything which calls for any lengthened remark from me.

Your Excellency will observe, that while taking credit for a small balance in our favour of receipts over disbursements, some still outstanding liabilities are admitted. These accruing for the last quarter of the year, and not having been audited until after the commencement of the succeeding one, will, in accordance with the previous practice, fall into the accounts of the current year. The total sum of them will no doubt greatly exceed the usual annual average, in consequence of the financial depression, aggravated by the commercial disasters of the period.

Taking these latter causes into consideration, your Excellency will be gratified, and probably surprised, to see that our imports for the year 1847 have declined, in comparison with those for the year 1846, only in the proportion of one-eighth, while the proceeds of the tax upon our exports give an actual increase (owing, of course, to the abundant crop of sugar) to the extent of a fifth.

The new gaol, situate in the town of Basseterre, is now completed according to the original plan, with the exception of some not essential details. Its main features, as your Excellency is aware, consist of 10 wards, measuring 21 by 12 feet, with six others (intended for solitary confinement), measuring 16 by 8 feet, opening on a central hall. The classification it will admit of will, therefore, be but of a general character. Notwithstanding this, and the incurable defect of a want of means of separate confinement during the night, it is a monument of improvement to which we may, I think, point with just pride.

All the works at the new church for the parish of St. George have been suspended from an early period of the year, but not before the original estimate, as your Excellency will observe, had been considerably exceeded. Roofed in as it is, it must wait a generation of more zealous churchmen, which as it is constructed of greenheart from Demerara, it may possibly survive to see.

The first measure which presents itself, on a retrospect of the legislation of the year, being one which was enacted during the fostering presence of your Excellency in this island, I need only observe, with reference to the Act remodelling the judicial establishment, that while some modifications of it may be found ultimately advisable, all well-informed persons recognize in it an important amelioration of our social institutions.

The Acts respectively for establishing a savings' bank, for preventing trespasses, and regulating the impounding of stock, and for punishing vagrants, may, I hope, be deemed just instances of institutional wants judiciously supplied.

The liberal grant for the year of 600*l.* having been duly administered by the

Board of Education on the principle announced in Mr. Claxton's Despatch, of the 10th March, 1847, of enforcing a regular proportional payment by each scholar, has, it is to be hoped, been of real service in overcoming the principal obstacle which presents itself to our efforts in this cause, the apathy so unhappily prevalent on this subject among their parents.

The better opinion entertained here would appear to confirm the result deducible from the recorded sums of baptisms and burials as to the almost stationary position of the population of this island. In addition to the carelessness as to infant disease and life which distinguishes the negro, I regret to have to report a further cause of this fact, so anomalous in a country so favourable to the increase of his race, in the increasing disinclination to resort to fitting medical advice for patients in cases of extremity on the part of their relations.

The agriculture of this island is a subject on which, I believe, apart from its present inadequate profits, we may still continue to congratulate ourselves. The great extent to which capital has availed itself of the extended inclinations which distinguish this from the contour of the neighbouring volcanic islands to introduce a system of detailed implemental husbandry has, in addition to its own proper economical returns, been of much use in enabling us to enforce successfully the late inevitable reduction of wages, by proclaiming that manual labour might profitably be dispensed with to an almost unlimited extent.

At the same time it would be unjust, in connexion with this subject, to withhold praise from the general behaviour of the labouring classes during their present reduced remuneration, which every sincere well-wisher of their race must hope to be permanent, as one of the necessary conditions of any further cultivation of the sugar-cane in this island.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH,
Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency J. M. Higginson, Esq.,
Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

(No. 15.) No. 16.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's,
March 10, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received April* 5, 1848.)

I have the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1847, together with a Report from the President administering the Government, on the present condition and future prospects of that island, which accompanied it.

2

In my Despatch, No. 72, of the 11th September last, I apprised your Lordship of the disastrous state to which various adverse circumstances had reduced this once flourishing settlement; and I deeply regret to observe that Mr. Baynes' Report, now submitted, is not calculated to convey a more favourable impression than I was myself led to form during my recent sojourn in the island.

A legislative and more intimate union with Antigua would, in my opinion, as I have previously stated, confer essential advantages on Montserrat, and might, perhaps, rescue her from the ruin with which she is threatened; but I have now too much reason to fear that the proposition which has been made by the Legislature of Montserrat to that of Antigua, with a view to effect such an incorporation, will not be entertained by the latter colony.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

Encl. in No. 16.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

REPORT to accompany the ANNUAL BLUE BOOK for 1847.

OWING to absence twice the usual space of time has elapsed since I transmitted my last General Report on the state of this colony. A change for the worse has taken place in every respect.

The accompanying reports from the Stipendiary Magistrate, the Treasurer, the Collector, the Colonial Secretary, the Provost Marshal, and the Loan Commissioners, which I called for in order to assist me in acquiring a thorough insight into the actual condition of the colony since my return, will sufficiently show its present melancholy condition.

Revenue and Expenditure.

I shall begin with referring to that of the Treasurer. The returns of this officer in the Blue Books, how the comparative statement of the revenue for 1846 and 1847 to stand thus:—

—	1846	1847	Decrease.	Increase.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Revenue	3,748 17 7	3,563 3 1¾	185 14 5¼	. .
Expenditure . . .	4,061 8 2	3,316 10 1	. .	217 3 10
Add (not yet audited for 1847) . .		963 1 11		
For 1847		4,279 12 0		

State of the Treasury.

Thus not only the revenue has fallen off during the last year, but the expenditure has increased, though neither to a great extent. But the Treasurer reports that his accounts under the former head show a decrease in every succeeding year, and that he has no hope of any alteration for the better. He thinks the country will not be in a condition to repay the portion of the loan (3000*l.*) borrowed for the restoration of the public buildings overthrown or injured by the earthquake of 1843. The Loan Commissioners coincide with Mr. Goodall in this opinion; and he speaks positively as to the inability of the island to make good to Her Majesty's Government any deficiency that may take place in the return of the gross sum 23,000*l.*, borrowed for the assistance of the sufferers in general.

The financial resources of the colony consist of:—

Taxation.

1st. Duties collected under the Imperial Act 8 and 9 Vict. c. 93.
2nd. The Local Tariff.
3rd. A tax upon landed property.
4th. A tax upon horses, mules, horned cattle, &c.

There are no other taxes, not even a liquor licence in force at present.

Defective System of.

No system of assessment can be more defective than that of the tax on landed property in this island. Land entirely out of cultivation, and which has been so for a long series of years, yielding no return whatever to the owner, is taxed at exactly the same rate as estates in full culture. These abandoned, and at present, for want of capital, unproductive properties, are regularly inserted by name and description in every successive levy Bill, and assessed according to old valuations effected many years since, when they were profitably cultivated, and afforded large returns to the proprietor. Thus cultivated and uncultivated lands, the flourishing sugar estate, the unprofitable wild, even in some instances the barren and inaccessible tops of the mountains, are taxed precisely on the same antiquated schedule of valuations in the same proportion; whilst, to increase the inconsistency, squatters who occupy these lands without molestation or hindrance, having houses and provision grounds *ad libitum* on them, on which an effective tax could easily be levied, are not required to contribute a single penny to the public revenue. This mode of taxation, unprofitable to the revenue, for in many cases no purchasers can be found for these properties when brought to the hammer in default of payment, oppressive to the proprietor, who reaps no profit from them, acts as a direct encouragement to and premium on the withholding of labour from the estates in cultivation.

This hardship is increased by a clause in the last Levy Bill which reduces the term of five years formally allowed for the redemption of property thus situated, when sold for taxes, to a single twelvemonth. It is a fact that large tracts of fertile land which the embarrassments of the owner have compelled him for a time to refrain from cultivating are generally sold year after year, changing owners every sale from inability to pay the heavy imposts on them for sums not exceeding, sometimes not equalling, the amount of taxes due on them.

I also greatly doubt the wisdom of taxing cattle kept for estate work; it tends to diminish their numbers, and, in consequence, the quantity of manure. This law has had in this island the anomalous effect of reducing the price of butcher's meat twenty-five per cent., accompanied by the advantage of a more regular supply in the market. This is occasioned by the increased number now slaughtered in order to avoid the impost.

Customs. Imports and Exports.

Nor do the returns of the collector of the customs afford a more cheering prospect. The imports, which had been increasing from the year 1841 to the date of my proceeding to England in 1846, have greatly fallen off during the last two years, there being a difference in value under this head of not less than 11,261*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, or about 42½*l.* per cent. between the years 1845 and 1847. A propitious season produced an unusually abundant crop in 1846, the advantages of which were unhappily greatly more than counterbalanced by the fall of prices, and I regret to say that this year, with the markets still more unfavourable, the crop, owing to the drought which prevailed in the autumn, is likely to be very indifferent.

The returns for the last three years of the value of imports and exports are as follows:—

		£.	s.	d.
1845	Imports	26,275	15	2
„	Exports	18,925	12	0
1846	Imports	17,967	7	0
„	Exports	15,976	0	0
1847	Imports	15,013	17	0
„	Exports	24,121	2	0

I also subjoin a return of the staple produce exported during the same period:—

Years.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.	
	Hhds.	Trs.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Puns.	Hhds.
1845	656	171	62	36	1	316	0
1846	448	150	84	10	0	280	3
1847	743	232	107	74	4	527	0

I likewise transmit, in order to show the progressive decline of the island, a a return of the quantity of produce exported annually since the year 1832, the corresponding amount of imperial duties, and the number and tonnage of ships which have left this island for England yearly during the same period. With the exception of the interval elapsing between 1841 and 1845, during which the agricultural interest rallied considerably, the downward tendency has, with little variation, been uniform, until, from 1608 hogsheads shipped in 1834, the exports of sugar have dwindled to 488 hogsheads in 1846. The number of ships, six, leaving with produce in the former year, has been reduced to one; and I am informed that no vessel is expected this year.

Imperial Duties.

The collector expresses his opinion that the imperial duties, low as they are at present, are not likely to increase, that is, to recover from their existing depression, in consequence of the greatly diminished trade carried on with the foreign islands, and the less frequent arrival of vessels direct from England; for it thus happens that our imports being now almost wholly obtained from the neighbouring British possessions, Antigua, St. Kitts, &c., the imperial duties have been already paid at those ports. Hence this unfortunate island has not only to pay the increased mercantile charges thus incurred on all the articles of its consumption, but is also deprived of the revenue which it ought to receive on them.

MONTSERRAT.

Local Tariff.

The duties collected under the Local Tariff Act have not, as under such circumstances may be imagined, escaped the general depression. They stand thus, and show a gradual decrease of nearly a third:—

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1845 . . .	1,220 1 10	328 13 1	1,548 14 11
1846 . . .	875 2 4	224 14 7	1,099 16 11
1847 . . .	735 10 2	319 7 7	1,054 17 9

These duties, being considerably lower than in any of the neighbouring islands, are susceptible of an increase of at least 25 per cent., and the revenue would certainly be much benefited by the transfer of the imperial duties imposed by the 8th and 9th Vict., c. 93, to the island tariff, as permitted by the 9th and 10th Vict., c. 93.

Loan.

The returns of the Commissioners of the loan will be also found of a most discouraging, and, I regret to say with regard to some of the borrowers, not of a creditable nature; these gentlemen reporting, that "the impression upon their "minds, from general observation and current report, is, that in many instances "the money (borrowed) has not been applied in the manner contemplated by "the Act," and in accordance with the declarations of the borrowers: and they are also of opinion, that, in cases in which the amount lent has not been laid out, as it ought to have been, in the restoration of the damaged buildings, "the value of the property as a security has been materially impaired;" and they declare themselves unable to say, in the present depreciated condition of property, whether the securities in general on which the money has been advanced are sufficient to guarantee the British Government from loss. Finally, they hold out but little prospect of the repayment of the 3000*l.* borrowed for the repairs of the public buildings, and none whatever of any deficiency in the repayment of the gross amount, 23,000*l.*, advanced by Government, being made good, as under the Act it ought to be, from the public treasury of this island.

I am of opinion that the loan, instead of having been a benefit, has been injurious to the general interests of the island. Of the whole amount of 20,000*l.* divided amongst 52 claimants, 15,000*l.* were actually lent to five individuals only; yet the entire revenue of the country is answerable under the Act for the defaults made by these individuals, one of whom has not up to this moment paid a single sixpence of the interest due by him, though a borrower of nearly 6000*l.*, and another who received a sum little short of 5000*l.* has paid the interest due for one year only, though the time fixed for the payment of that for the third year is near at hand.

The island revenue being mortgaged to Government for the repayment of the loan, I trust the doubt expressed by the Commissioners as to the legislature continuing to consent to the renewal of the annual property tax will prove groundless, forming, as it did when they passed the Act, a large portion of the security offered by themselves. As these are the same gentlemen who so anxiously petitioned for assistance in the first instance, and who subsequently so urgently pressed Her Majesty's Government for the additional loan of 8000*l.*, which was accorded to their prayer, I cannot entertain the supposition, more especially after the indulgence already extended to them in postponing the payment of the first instalment of the principal for three years, that they will take any steps for diminishing the value of a security the sufficiency of which is already very doubtful.

List of Estates.

I transmit also a return, obtained from the island secretary, of all the estates in the colony, whether in cultivation or thrown up, with the names of the owners, and the estimated value at which they are respectively taxed in the annual Levy Bill.

Of all the documents appended to this Report, the returns of the Provost Marshal set the extraordinary depreciation of property in the strongest light.

Depreciation of Property.

The estates of the late Mr. Dudley Semper, which, estimated as all the properties were at the time of their valuation, at scarcely more than half of their value, are rated in the Levy Bill at 27,700*l.*, were lately sold for 295*l.* They were, it is true, bought by the mortgagee, whose claim amounted to

11,000*l.*; still the circumstance testifies the great depreciation that has taken place.

Mr. Trott's properties, valued at 18,100*l.*, sold for the amount of taxes due on them, 181*l.*: this was by arrangement; but the absence of speculators on so favourable an occasion speaks either a total want of capital or great distrust of the future prospects of the colony.

There have been frequent sales of unincumbered freehold property not much disproportionate. Thus the house of Mr. Brinn, valued at 400*l.*, was first sold in execution for taxes for 3*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, and being redeemed by him, was soon after put up again for public sale for default under the Loan Act, and knocked down for 55*l.*

Two houses in Plymouth, belonging to Mr. Venn, of the Council, valued each at 200*l.*, were sold together for 53*l.*

A house in town, rated at 200*l.*, the property of Mr. Dowdy, was sold three times within two years; on the first occasion for 23*l.*, on the second for 63*l.*, and finally for 6*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*

The return of Mr. Osborn, the stipendiary magistrate, is extremely clear and full in all its details. It presents a perspective equally dismal with the foregoing. The ordinary rate of wages is only 5½*d.*, or rather 5½*d.*; yet, small as this sum is, there are only 8 estates of the 39 in the island on which the labourers are settled with punctually. On all the other 31 (23 of which, or three-fourths of the whole number, are, as will be seen in the return, under the charge of a single individual, in his different capacities of owner, lessee, executor, attorney, and receiver) they are paid irregularly, long and uncertain intervals elapsing between the payments. Arrears are due on some for 6, on others 12, and even 18 months. The large amount of 600*l.* is due to his people by one proprietor alone. The truck and barter system has sprung up, and is spreading daily, owing to this delay. The work is very unsatisfactorily performed; indeed, under such circumstances, it is not so surprising that they should afford their employers little labour as that they should work at all for them. State of Cultivation.

Not less than 17 sugar estates have, during the course of last year, been either thrown up, or the cultivation on them has been greatly reduced. Some have resorted to the metayer plan, the only resource remaining to those who are unable to pay wages. Wretched as this shift is, it is preferable to giving up cultivation altogether, though the proceeds of the proprietor rarely enable him to do more than keep up the stock and maintain the buildings in repair.

Mr. Osborn thus describes the causes of the deterioration which has taken place:—"Want of capital, want of credit, want of mutual confidence between "planters and labourers, and want of energy." To which I would add, absenteeism, and the master evil to which I have so often adverted, tenancy at will of houses and provision grounds rent-free as a substitution in part for wages.

It can scarcely be expected that, during a period when all other elements of social polity have suffered so severely, education alone should have escaped from the effects of an evil so widely prevalent. It has not done so; and there has been during the last 18 months a signal falling-off both in the number of schools and the attendance at those still existing. All attempts to persuade the peasantry in general to contribute towards the instruction of their children have hitherto failed. The gradual progress of civilizing influences may indeed in time open their eyes to the benefits and beget the inclination; better times and punctual payment of their wages may increase their means of conferring this blessing on their offspring; but the former of these requisites is not in activity, the latter not in existence, at present. Education.

I have recently taken the liberty to forward, for the consideration of his Lordship the Secretary for the Colonies, the outline of a scheme for the general combined literal and industrial training of the youth of the labouring classes in these islands, based on a plan which it appears to me may be successfully carried out with little expense in the first instance, and is likely to become ultimately not only self-supporting, but even productive of profit.

The legislative bodies deserve credit for greater diligence of late than usual. Several excellent laws, from which I anticipate great benefit, have been enacted. Amongst them are an Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, a Poor Law, and one authorizing the appointment of town wardens, who are Legislation.

MONTSERRAT.

invested in some measure with police functions, but who act gratuitously, and cannot without their own consent be retained in office more than three months. I have procured the introduction of a Contract Act, founded on that of British Guiana, but somewhat less stringent. I have every reason to think it will become law. It is greatly wanted, both as regards employer and labourer; and I trust it will be passed in such a form as to meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. A Revenue Bill is also pending, framed on nearly the same principle as the one lately rejected by the Council. It has passed both Houses, but has not yet reached me. His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief was desirous of its being made permanent, or at least quinquennial: this most desirable object has not, however, been yet accomplished. In the body of the Bill, indeed, it is provided that it shall be in force for three years; but the party opposed to a duration longer than annual have, in a rider, repealed the triennial, and substituted in its place a clause limiting it to one year: this may lead to fresh discussion on the subject.

Justice.

At the desire of his Excellency the Governor, I have lately reported on the operation of the judicial system recently introduced, against which a formal complaint has been made by the House of Assembly. I have no doubt that his Excellency, assisted by the new Chief Justice, will find the means of obviating the inconveniences pointed out as affecting the ordinary Courts of Law. But I still retain the opinion expressed in my annual Report for the year 1845, that the clauses of the Act relating to the Court of Chancery, superseding the functions of the Chancellor, and authorizing the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor, necessarily not a resident in the island, and whose presence cannot be obtained, however urgent the emergency, when required, are impracticable, and should be repealed.

Military Defence.

An inclination is manifested by several members of the Legislature to throw up Fort Barrington, on the plea of the expense of keeping it up, though it does not exceed the annual average of 65*l*. As this is the only military work in the island, and the sole defence of the town and roadstead, which without it would, in the event of a war, be at the mercy of any armed privateer that might chose to cannonade the place, should this proposal be carried into effect they may soon have cause to repent their economy, and would in such case no doubt call on the mother country to assist them in restoring so necessary a defence, ruined by their own improvidence. I trust Her Majesty's Government will approve of my using my best endeavours to obviate such a contingency.

The existing distress of these colonies is here entirely attributed to, and if we consider its rapid supervention is without doubt chiefly provenient from, the depressed state of the markets, and is so generally and overwhelmingly experienced that the continued culture of these fertile regions as sugar growing countries is doubtful, unless it can now be proved that they contain intrinsically, and are in a state to avail themselves of them, elements of sufficient endurance to enable them to bear up, at least for the present, against the immense differential expense to which they are subjected in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar when compared with that produced by the labour of slaves.

The great desideratum is to point out and to promote the development of all resources the proper application of which may alleviate the burden pressing on the British planter, at least to such extent as to enable him to obtain a living from and carry on the cultivation of his property at a minimum profit, until some change (and one is betokened, by manifest signs, not to be far distant), shall take place between the proprietor and labourer in slave-holding countries. There are many reasons for believing such an event at hand.

Amongst these may be reckoned the increase of more liberal and Christian notions on this head on the part of the master; more ardent hope of and stronger aspirations for freedom on that of the slave; the late immediate Swedish and prospective Danish emancipation; the efforts now made in France, Holland, and even in the United States; a servile insurrection, an event every day apprehended in the Spanish colonies; finally, a war between England and any one of the slave-holding states, an occurrence certainly within the bounds of probability.

Some of these influences are already gradually changing, the incidence of others may more speedily alter, existing relations, reverse the condition of our own and foreign colonies, and place the British possessions in the position now occupied by Brazil, Cuba, Porto Rico, &c., of being able to sell their sugar at

the cheapest rate in the markets of the world. This advantage once obtained would be enjoyed by us for a considerable time; that is, until the emancipated populations of the foreign colonies have gone through the ordeal we have already sustained, if not without detriment it is to be hoped without utter, ruin. When at length our rivals subside again into order and industry, the price of labour being once equalized, free trade will preserve the balance, and the chief evil to be apprehended by the planter will be over-production.

These expectations are reasonable; but the opinion precipitately formed, and still pertinaciously insisted on by a large portion of the Anti-Slavery Society, that the cost of free is not necessarily more than that of slave labour, and that the former, in the present state of the West Indies, can compete with the latter, is a fallacy, the prevalence of which, by inculcating false principles and inducing action on incorrect data, has gone near to ruin these islands, and will certainly effect that undesirable end if persisted in.

Dr. Davy, of Barbados, in his ingenious exposition of the benefits of free trade, maintains a fallacy correlative with the foregoing, when he asserts that the price of sugar can be equalized in the British and foreign colonies by the operation of free trade alone. He loses sight in his calculation of the different rates of production in free and slave communities, and entirely forgets that if the latter could furnish a sufficient quantity of sugar to supply all the markets in the world, under the realization of which hypothesis only the equalization he anticipates would take place, the higher price of labour, and the consequent want of a market, would effectually extinguish the cultivation of sugar in Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and the other British colonies, which would have to import their supplies of that article from Brazil, Porto Rico, and Cuba.

If, indeed, the abolition of slavery form a constituent principle in Dr. Davy's reasoning, it may be observed that such an event, however fervently we may desire it, and whatever effect may in time be produced by the many influences now at work, must at the present moment, in reason, rather be hoped as a prospective contingency than calculated on as an immediate probability.

With regard to the simple fact of comparative cost, the labour of the slave has ever hitherto been, and it is to be feared will continue, in despite of every exertion, management, and improvement, to be greatly less than that of the freeman, and until the population of the larger and less peopled of our islands shall be at least quadrupled, that is, until population shall encroach on subsistence to the degree that it does in India and China, in which countries a few handsful of rice are considered as an equivalent remuneration for a day's labour, —until, in fact, the wages of the free labourer shall be reduced to a par with the necessary subsistence of the slave.

To stock an estate with slaves in the first instance may require a large outlay; but once established, the cost of keeping them is very small. They feed themselves, require little clothing, and kind treatment will keep up their number by natural increase. How little the support of the late slave cost his master even in our colonies may be collected from the fact, that when serving in Jamaica complaints were on different occasions preferred against me, to Lord Sligo and Sir Lionel Smith, for refusing to award less than 1*l.* sterling as an annual compensation for all the supplies allowed by law to the slave and continued to the apprentice, which in many instances had been neglected by the master for years together. These supplies were limited to a few yards of baize and of a coarse stuff called Osnaburgh. The occasional distributions of salt fish were entirely dependent on the will of the owner. They were, however, in general regularly served out on most of the sugar estates. These indulgences, as they were called, in order to distinguish them from the allowances provided for by law, cost the proprietor about 4*d.* per week, or 17*s.* 4*d.* per annum; a dollar yearly was paid for each head to the medical attendant, and the care of the sick in hospitals involved some light extra expense; but the whole outlay for the slave in Jamaica, when provided with provision grounds, did not exceed 2*l.* It is to be observed that the grounds cultivated by the slaves for their subsistence cost the owner nothing immediately out of pocket, nor eventually, except the half-day's labour (the value of which may be fairly estimated at 1*s.*) allowed for working them. They were uniformly situated on the sides of uncleared mountains, in deep ravines or other spots, fertile indeed, but which could be put to no other use. Jobbing gangs sometimes, and town domestics usually, neither class of whom had in general grounds

MONTSERRAT.

allowed to them, received something more than 1*s.*; but the great mass of the prædial population did not each, at a high estimate, stand in their owners more than 4*l.* 12*s.* annually. There is no reason whatever for supposing that the Spanish, French, Brazilian, or United States slave-holder is at all more liberal at present than the English owner was during slavery. It is to be feared that the reverse is the case. Thirty per cent. also, at least, must be deducted in consideration of the difference in price between British and foreign colonies, when applying a scale for computing the expense of the present slave-master.

It is not, under the enormous disparity of cost, easy to conceive how the employer of free labour in British Guiana and Trinidad, who pay each able-bodied workman at the rate of 25*l.* per annum, can profitably compete with the slave owner of Cuba and Porto Rico. Even in the Leeward Island government, in which labour is greatly lower in price than in Jamaica and the two colonies just mentioned, the difference is still immense. In this island, in which I believe wages have long been below the rates of other colonies, being only 5½*d.* a day, or 2*s.* 2*d.* for a week of five days, that is, 6*l.* 3*s.* per annum, together with the advantage of provision grounds and medical attendance, we are still far from being in a condition, under existing practice and management, of being able to compete with slave colonies. If we are *proximi*, it is still "*longo intervallo.*" For it is a fact, of which in common with every other person in the colony I am cognizant, that the labourer does not for his 5½*d.* afford his employer half a day's honest labour. His real cost must therefore be estimated at more than double that sum to the proprietor, and indeed he is always actually paid at that rate when working by the piece. The absurd custom of computing a day's labour, not by quantity and time corresponding with and proportioned to each other, but preposterously permitting it to be regulated by the idle or capricious habits of the labourer to such a degree that two and even three days' work can be and is often performed in one, is not peculiar to this island, but prevails throughout these colonies. This novel and extremely ingenious mode of suffering oneself to be cheated is, I have reason to believe, purely of West India origin. It can scarcely be doubted that it is one of the co-operating causes of their decline. I have endeavoured to convince the proprietary body of the ruinous effects of, and to suggest some obvious means of overthrowing this practical paradox before it takes too deep a root to be any longer eradicable, and three or four hours become fixed as the legal standard for the measure of day in Montserrat.

If there is not as yet reason for actual despair as regards the future, there is absolute necessity for perseverance, exertion, and forethought to struggle with success under the pressure of existing difficulties. Every resource that industry, ingenuity, and capital can command or render available must be employed; and after all every effort that can be made may prove fruitless without the assistance of Government. I have endeavoured in this little island to perform what I conceived my duty, by suggesting to the legislative bodies, in my address, a printed copy of which (in order to prevent this report from extending to inconvenient length) I enclose, certain measures of easy, practical, unexpensive application, which appear to me, with reference to the peculiar state of the colony, calculated to remedy or alleviate at least a portion of this evil under which it labours in this trying crisis. I much fear, however, that the long arrears due to the labourers by some of their employers, extending to 6, 12, and even 18 months, will act as a formidable obstacle to the reforms recommended by me. Proprietors may find it difficult to effect any change of importance, however necessary, and calculated ultimately to benefit both parties, which may at first be unpalatable to the labourers, who are their creditors to so large an amount.

(Signed) EDWARD DACRES BAYNES,

Government House, Montserrat. President.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

REPORT from the STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE.

SIR,

December 14, 1847.

I HAVE the honour, in compliance with your Honour's directions, herewith to forward a return under the several heads required in your Honour's official communication of the 30th ultimo, together with such information as appeared to me analogous to the purport of the queries transmitted.

I have, &c.,

His Honour the President administering the Government, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN OSBORN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

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1. What is the average rate of wages in this island at present?—The average rate of wages is 1*s.* currency, or 5½*d.* sterling. On some few estates this sum is paid for a task, which is fallaciously supposed to be equal to one day's labour. In most cases labourers perform two tasks, and in rare instances three tasks per day; but this system is discouraged by planters, and will eventually fall into disuse.

2. Maximum and minimum of wages, with names of estates?—Two bitts, or 8*d.* sterling per day, are paid to labourers employed on the estate of G. S. Martin, Esq., called Broderick's. One bitt, or 4*d.* per day, is paid to labourers employed on the estate of Sir T. Neave, Bart., called Palmetto Point.

3. Whether labourers are punctually paid, and at what periods?—The labourers in this island are most irregularly and unsatisfactorily paid; payment of wages is withheld from one month to six and twelve months and eighteen months and upwards. In one instance the employer, who was executor and trustee of several estates, has recently died, leaving unpaid the wages of labourers, some of which have been overdue for 71 weeks. The reputed insolvency of this party renders hopeless all attempts to recover the amount due to the labourers. The estates are heavily burdened with a prior mortgage, far exceeding their value. The evils of irregular payments paralyze the whole system. It is difficult, nay, almost impossible, for the ignorant labourers to compute with accuracy the amount due to them for periods extending over 60 or 70 weeks. The pay list is kept by the manager, and the only proof of their demand is in the hands of the employer. Frequent complaints of unfair deductions are made, and the labourer is destitute of any evidence to assert his rights. Whether fraudulent abatements be made or not, still this pernicious system is open to such imputations. In case of suing their employer they have no means of proof, nor any power to compel its production in a court of law; they are, therefore, to a great extent, at the mercy of their employer. Again, supposing the labourer to be in a condition to sue for wages in the higher courts, the expense of which amounts to a prohibition, still they could reap no fruit from an execution at law against their employer, for in the vast majority of cases the proprietors have obtained a loan from Government, which loan takes priority of all executions at the suit of the subject. In some instances, if even the obstacle of the prior lien of the Crown upon the estates were removed, the property is so encumbered by prior judgments and executions at the suit of the subject that any attempt to recover would be nugatory on the part of the labourers.

6. Greatest space of time for which arrears are due?—Eighteen months. The largest amount due at one time to the labourers was 600*l.* sterling, by one proprietor.

7. What effect irregular payments has already produced and still is producing on labour?—The first effect produced by non-payment of wages was extensive emigration from hence to Trinidad, which removed from the island the major part of the young and robust population, very few of whom have found their way back again. In my return for the half year ending 31st December, 1846, which was the first return made by me after my arrival here, I made the following remarks:—"The wages of labourers in this island, with a very few exceptions, are most irregularly paid; instances are not uncommon where labourers are kept out of their wages for six, twelve, eighteen months, and in some cases for two years. The prevalence of squatting and disinclination to labour is to be ascribed to this cause; for planters who owe heavy arrears are hardly in a position to resist encroachments on the part of labourers who are their creditors. Decrease and irregularity of labour are also traced to the same cause; for the labourer who cultivates three or four acres must devote his time to his own land, the produce of which renders him independent of precarious wages." These observations I am enabled fully to confirm, and to state that these evils are on the increase rather than the decrease. When partial payments are made to labourers of large amounts, on account of arrears of wages, they cease to labour, and commence to traffic as hucksters and petty dealers in salted provisions, &c. Again; where, from inability to procure money in payment of their wages, the labourers consent to accept American meal and salt provisions, they likewise are, in some degree, compelled to become hucksters to get rid of these provisions. These provisions, I regret to say, are supplied to the labourers at a ruinous price; but they have no alternative; they must submit to the sacrifice, or get nothing at all. By these means the pernicious system of barter and truck, prohibited by law in England, is submitted here for money payments. When, again, labourers do receive large instalments of their wages, they necessarily become disinclined to labour, and vast numbers spend their time in idleness or debauchery. Besides all this, the insecurity of payment, the inability of recovering their wages, produced a determination not to labour; for, in the phrase used by the negroes, "they won't work for

MONTSERRAT.

what they can't see." The want of circulation of money checks commerce, and the merchants generally complain that many respectable and honest labourers are largely indebted to them, and although perfectly willing are unable to pay their debts.

8. Whether the labourers when irregularly paid continue to afford a profitable return of labour for the wages so paid?—The foregoing remarks will have sufficiently led to the obvious conclusion, that work performed under such circumstances must be feebly and unsatisfactorily done. The labourers, in most cases, perform as little as they can; and the planter is compelled to put up with such work as is performed. The return, consequently, is not profitable, nor can it be so.

9. What are the prospects of the year 1848?—From the best information I can collect, the crop will not exceed 600 hogsheads. By reason of the general insolvency, which is prevalent here, the receipts under the tariff have diminished to an alarming degree. The only vessel which annually brought stores and merchandize has ceased to trade hither; and the receipts under the tariff, which were formerly comparatively lucrative at this season of the year, are at present merely nominal.

10. What estates, if any, have been thrown out, or have been greatly reduced in cultivation during the past year; causes of such deterioration, if known?—Delvin's, German's Bay, Streatham's, Ryley's, Weeks', Hermitage, Brade's, Baizey's, Look-out, Bransby's, Gerrald's, Farm, Waterwork, Paradise, Symes and Lee's, Sweeney's, upon all these estates cultivation is very much diminished; on some it has almost disappeared, and on most cultivation has only been kept up at all by means of working the estates for halves with the labourer. This latter system is conducted in a most slovenly and inefficient manner, neither party seeming to take that interest, or to manifest that degree of energy, which alone can insure successful cultivation.

11. Causes of deterioration, if known to you?—The obvious causes seem to be, want of capital, want of credit to procure capital, want of mutual confidence between planter and labourer, and want of energy.

12. Estates managed by attorneys for non-resident proprietors?—Are Delvin's, Brade's, Baizey's, Look-out, Blake's, Carr's Bay, Gerrald's, Dagenham, Webb's, Broderick's, White's, Tar River, Galway's, Hermitage, German's Bay, Streatham's, Ryley's, Weeks', Roache's, Tuit's, Trant's, Bethel's, Harris's.

13. Estates managed by resident proprietors?—

Richmond and Grove	by Lessee.
Ffryes	Ditto.
Bransby's	No. 1. Proprietor.
Belham's	Lessee.
Old Road	Ditto.
Needsmust	Ditto.
Sweeney's	No. 2. Proprietor.
Parsons	No. 3. Ditto.
Reed's Hill	Lessee.
Amersham	Ditto.
Farm	No. 4. Proprietor.
Paradise, Symes, Lees	No. 5. Ditto.
Waterwork	No. 6. Ditto.
Gage's	Lessee.

No. 14. Whether you consider the management by attorneys less advantageous and profitable than that by actual proprietors?—One prominent cause of the former prosperity of these colonies was the residence of proprietors; there can be no doubt that the actual residence of proprietors materially contributes to the prosperity of a colony, the same causes arising from absenteeism, which weigh down Ireland, affects the colonies generally.

(Signed) JOHN OSBORN,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Encl. 3 in No. 16.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

REPORT of the TREASURER.

1. Of the actual available resources of the colony, as far as you are acquainted with them, of the present and following year?—The resources of the colony consist, 1st, of duties collected under the Imperial Act 8th and 9th Victoria; 2nd, of the Tariff; 3rd, of a tax upon horses, mules, horned cattle, &c.; 4th, of a tax upon landed property.

2. The sources from which the above means are derivable?—The amount of duties collected under the 8th and 9th Victoria fluctuates. In consequence of the stagnation of trade, importations into this island direct from the place of production or foreign colonies rarely occur, and thus almost all the duties are paid, not into the treasury here, where the consumption takes place, but at the ports from whence the exportation is made, sometimes at Barbadoes, but more frequently at St. Kitts or Antigua, where our supplies of articles dutiable under this Act are chiefly obtained. Parties importing might certainly take such goods out of bond at the port of exportation, but they find it more convenient (generally, it is presumed, for want of capital) to purchase upon credit from the merchant's store, the duty in such cases having

been previously paid. As no shipping from England is expected to trade here in the ensuing year, importations direct from that quarter will cease altogether. Goods from England for this island will in future be shipped to some neighbouring colony, and thus an increased reduction in the amount of duty collected under this Act must take place. It ought to have been observed, that the revenue paid over to the Treasury under this Act shows a decrease in the returns of every succeeding year. The amount of tariff, being dependent upon exports and imports, fluctuates, and has latterly considerably diminished. The circumstances of the colony will not permit me to indulge a hope of any improvement in the revenue produced by this Act. The tax upon horses, horned cattle, mules, &c., was passed for three years, and will expire in the ensuing year. As the amount of revenue raised under the foregoing Acts is not equal to the expenditure of the colony, a tax upon landed property is raised by an Act passed annually to make good the deficiency; but a Bill is now in progress before the House of Assembly, renewing, with certain modifications, the tax upon horses, horned cattle, mules, &c., and consolidating it, together with the other Colonial Revenue Acts, for a period of five years. The property tax is raised upon a fictitious and arbitrary estimate of the supposed value, for the sole purpose of raising a revenue. If the assessments were fairly made, as in other countries, upon the actual value of property, the revenue arising from this tax would be reduced to one-third of its present amount.

3. What means actually exist for holding out a reasonable hope that the portion of the loan borrowed by the public will be repaid?—Unless some improvement in the condition of the colony take place, the prospect of maintaining the existing income is uncertain, nor are there at present any other resources within it to be considered proper objects of taxation. No reasonable hope can therefore be held out that the portion of the loan borrowed by the public will be repaid with the requisite punctuality, although I will not venture so far as to assert that it will never be repaid. The colony, it is admitted, possesses a favourable climate and fertile soil, beside the advantage of a population sufficient for the purposes of cultivation. With these elements of prosperity, assisted by the application of capital, industry, and intelligence, there would be no doubt as to the capability of the colony to make good every engagement with respect to the loan due to Her Majesty's Government, and these considerations induce a hope that such will eventually prove to be the case.

4. Whether any interest be due by the public of this colony to the Crown on such loan?—The interest due by the public of this colony to the Crown has been paid; but it must be noticed that the money appropriated to make this payment formed no part of the revenue, consisting of a balance of the 3000*l.* sterling reserved for the use of the public, and intended as a fund for the repairs of buildings, roads, &c., but in the absence of other means was applied to the purpose above mentioned.

5. The date of its accruing?—The 1st of August in every year.

6. What steps have been taken to secure it?—The Loan Act makes it the first lien upon the revenue.

7. The probable future ability of the public revenue to repay any probable deficiency in the general loan of 23,000*l.* sterling, for which the public revenue is security to Government?—The revenue of the colony is at present barely adequate to meet its expenditure, and I can discover no means of increasing it. Some of the existing sources of revenue are already described to be failing, consequently no probability appears of any deficiency in the general loan of 23,000*l.* being made good from the revenue. It is, however, to be hoped that the parties borrowing will not fail to meet their engagements.

8. Amount of interest still due, and by whom?—The Commissioners not having furnished my office with the necessary information with reference to this query, I am not in a position to answer it.

9. Amount of taxes due at present to the public?—770*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.* currency.

10. Dates on which they became due?—The property tax payable on the 1st of July last; the cattle tax payable on the 10th of August last.

(Signed) RICHARD S. GOODALL, Treasurer.

December 20, 1847.

MONTSERRAT.

Enclosure 4 in No. 16.

Encl. 4 in No. 16.

A RETURN showing the Quantity of SUGAR, RUM, and MOLASSES Exported Annually since the Year 1832, with the Value of the same; also the Annual Amount of Imperial Duties received during the same Period; and the Number of Ships leaving this Island for Great Britain with Produce, with the Amount of their Tonnage, from the Year 1832 to 1846.

Year.	Sugar.			Rum.		Molasses.		Value in Sterling of foregoing.			Amount of Imperial Duties.			Ships leaving with Produce for Great Britain.	
	Hhds.	Trs.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Puns.	Hhds.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	No.	Tons.
1832	1,288	17	627	640	17	289	2	32,838	0	0	297	8	4	4	1,062
1833	955	45	167	471	0	478	2	25,128	0	0	153	11	4	3	814
1834	1,608	115	386	613	27	696	3	41,512	0	0	271	12	1	6	1,596
1835	803	60	20	312	2	268	1	19,931	0	0	292	18	3	4	1,117
1836	794	59	24	168	0	332	0	19,198	0	0	275	7	6	4	974
1837	507	28	34	53	2	278	2	12,224	0	0	215	1	8	2	593
1838	1,290	200	54	211	48	772	0	33,205	0	0	335	9	3	4	527
1839	727	160	50	196	44	479	2	20,274	0	0	338	0	6	3	840
1840	825	287	7	209	37	392	0	22,713	0	0	390	1	3	3	797
1841	770	259	5	77	17	539	0	21,203	0	0	690	0	9	3	783
1842	928	323	112	103	19	642	20	25,985	0	0	358	9	9	4	803
1843	619	201	103	48	1	461	3	17,149	0	0	601	11	10	2	621
1844	875	296	248	60	0	755	4	24,977	0	0	330	4	6	3	1,012
1845	656	171	62	36	1	316	0	16,722	0	0	469	4	5	2	672
1846	488	150	84	10	0	280	3	11,854	0	0	272	12	3	1	281

ANSWERS to the QUERIES contained in the Private Secretary's Letter, dated the 27th November.

1. The island tariff duties are generally lower in Montserrat than in the neighbouring colonies.

2. They are, in my opinion, susceptible of an increase, on an average, of at least 26 per centum.

3. The imperial duties collected in this colony, although at present exceedingly low, are, I think, not likely to increase. On the contrary, in consequence of the want of capital and credit in the island, I imagine they are more likely to fall off.

The trade also between this and the foreign islands has of late materially diminished; the consequence is, that all imports being from the neighbouring British islands, in most if not all cases the imperial duties have been already paid at the ports from whence those imports arrive.

(Signed) ROBERT SAUNDERS, Collector.

Port of Plymouth, Montserrat.

Enclosure 5 in No. 16.

Encl. 5 in No. 16.

RETURN of the NAMES of all PERSONS owning or possessing FREEHOLDS in the Town of PLYMOUTH, together with the Estimated Value of such Properties, according to the Levy Bill of 1846.

NOTE.—It is impracticable to arrive at a fair statement of the actual ownership of all the properties, or the tenures upon which they are held by other persons, in consequence of the intricate settlements and trusts which attach to freeholds in the town of Plymouth.

Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.	Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.
	£.		£.
Samuel L. Irish	1,200	Mary Martin	250
John H. Brinn	500	Estate of Frances Skerritt, deceased	50
Morgan Harris	200	Richard Chambers	500
David Sydney	200	Ann Ryan	300
Estate, Richard H. Dyett, deceased	1,000	Samuel Irish	600
Charlotte Chalmers	400	Mary O'Brien	600
Henry Dyett	750	Rebecca Wheatland	350
John P. Trott	1,000	Estate, Michael Furlonge, deceased	800
Charles Venn	400	Peter Gibbons	600
Francis Burke	800	Eliza Harper	400
Henry Connell	400	Patrick Burns	1,000
Sarah Ryan	300	Richard S. Goodall	750
Heirs of Charles Chambers, deceased	300	Estate, Edward Irish, deceased	300
Joseph Lindesay	200	Charlotte Chalmers	200

Return of the Names of all Persons owning or possessing Freeholds in the Town of Plymouth, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.	Names of Owners or Possessors.	Value in Currency.
	£.		£.
Thomas and Sophia Greer	600	Charles Venn	200
Executors of George Wyke, deceased	300	Augustus Allen	200
Edward Andain	200	Estate, Robert Dyett, deceased	100
Barbara Brownbill	300	Richard and William Dyett and Sister	500
Margaret Sambo	200	Lucy Hill and Children	225
Susannah Dyett	400	Paul Bonchard, deceased	250
Estate, Christiana Brown, deceased	100	Sarah and Frances Dubery	500
Henry Blake	300	James Delvin	200
Martha M. Allen	150	Thomas Pond	100
Mary Alice Thwaites	300	Misses Hamilton	200
Nathaniel W. Irish	200	Eliza Dubery	250
Grant Stephenson	200	John P. Trott	200
Eliza Irish	100	Estate of George Wyke, deceased	300
Thomas Dyett	400	Venus Wyke	100
John and Anthony Dowdy	200	Martin Ryan	300
Thomas Harper (2)	150	Mary Meade	50
John Simpson	300	James Venn	200
Peter Irish	300	Heirs of Eleanor Skerrit, deceased	200
William A. Irish	50	Estate, Henry Irish, deceased	400
Estate, Harriet Chalmers, deceased	100	Penda Irish and Children	100
Sarah Irish	100	George Allers	50
Ann Allen	500	Christopher Saunders	100
Richard Piper	250	Estate, John Ryan, deceased	50
John Allen	300	John H. Brinn	400
Estate, Ann Sweeny, deceased	150	Peter Gibbons	50
John Nelson Collins	150	Estate, Robert Dyett, deceased	100
John Rodney Allen	150	Eliza Harper	50
J. P. Trott and T. H. Percy	150	Lucy and Mary MacNamara	100
Jesse Thwaites	500	Estate, Dudley Semper, deceased	200
Susannah Duberry	300	Philip Percy	50
Estate, Eleanor Cannonier, deceased	100	Eliza Furlonge and others	600
Estate, William Shoy, deceased	600	Frederick Cassell	100
Mary Chambers and Children	600	Samuel Ffrye	50
Mary Alice Thwaites	600	James Harris	100
James Wyke	220	Ellen Patrick	100
Ann Meade	100	James F. Daley	200
Estate, George Wyke, deceased	50	John Dyer	50
John Dyer	200	Joseph Dyer	50
Samuel L. Irish	300	William Roach	200
Octavia Irish	50	Alexander Willock	100
Edward Andain	100	James Quaw	200
James Delvin	200	Queely Shiell (3)	1,150
Mary Meade	300	G. S. Martin and F. Shand	600
John P. Trott	500	Richard Chambers (2 lots)	500
Mary O'Gara Price	150	Mary Chambers and Children	600
Samuel Irish	150	Lucy M'Nemara	200
Peggy Shoy	25	James Meade	800
Edward Miller	600	Jane Allen	50
John Dobridge	200	John P. Trott	900
John F. Kirwan	400	James Howson	150
Heirs of Dudley Semper, deceased	1,000	Estate, Dominick Trant, deceased	50
Henry Blake	50	Estate, Dudley Semper, deceased (3)	1,500
Joseph Allen	300	Polydore Allen	50
Mary Loving and Sisters	600	Mary Chambers and others	100
Julius Allen	300		
Sally Trant	100	Total value	£44,500

The valuation of the foregoing properties, like the sugar and stock estates, is very erroneous, being in many instances much above their worth.

Certified,

(Signed) HENRY LOVING, Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 6 in No. 16.

RETURN of all SUGAR and STOCK ESTATES in the Island of Montserrat, together with their Estimated Value, according to the Annual Land Tax Bill; the Name of the Owner, and of the Party who is in possession where the Owner is not, and the right by which such Party holds possession; and a Return of all smaller Possessions for the Growth of Provisions, together with their Value and the Name of the Owner.

NOTE.—The sugar estates are marked with an asterisk (*).

Name of Estate.	Value in Currency.	Name of Owner.	Party in possession, where the Owner is not.	Right by which Party holds possession.
Valentine's Gut	£250	Augustus Daly.		
Rendezvous	1,500	Sir T. Neave, Bart.	Charles Venn	Attorney.
*Blake's	2,000	John P. Trott.		
Silver Hill	500	Nathaniel B. Daly's Estate.		
Thatched Valley	150	John H. Brinn.		
Hell Gate	350	The same.		
Brinn's Gut	250	The same.		
Drummond's	500	Sir T. Neave, Bart.	Charles Venn	Attorney.
Old Northward	1,000	Richard Locker.		
*Gerrald's	7,000	Devisees of J. Gerrald	William Shiell	Executor.
Sweeny's	750	Peter Gibbons.		
*Barzey's	6,000	John P. Trott.		
*Folly and Little Carr's Bay	8,000	The same.		
Bank's	750	Martha Miller.		
Baker Hill	1,000	Patrick Sweeny.		
Fogerty's	800	Devisees of G. Chalmers.		
Virgin Islands	250	Estate of J. Lindesay.		
Underwood's	100	John P. Trott.		
Ponds	250	Chrisp Molineux.		
Lawyer's	2,500	Francis Burke.		
Dolly's	1,000	Devisees of W. Dolly.		
*Needsmust	8,000	Mrs. Ann Jeffers	William Shiell	Attorney.
Hope	500	John H. Harper	J. Dobridge and T. Percy.	Attorneys.
Duberry's	1,500	Edward Kensington	William Shiell	Lessee.
Frith's	500	Heirs of Henry Blake.		
*Old Road	7,000	George St. Loo Kirwan	William Shiell	Lessee.
*Water Work	7,000	John F. Kirwan.		
*Tar River	6,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand	Augustus V. Drury	Attorney.
*White's	6,000	The same	The same	The same.
*Hermitage	10,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper	William Shiell	Receiver in Chancery.
*Paradise	5,000	William D. Furlonge.		
Molineux	5,000	J. H. Harper	John Dobridge	Attorney.
Cedar Gut	500	William D. Furlonge.		
New Windward	500	John F. Kirwan.		
*Streatham's and Riley's	7,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper	William Shiell	Receiver in Chancery.
*Tuite's, Bethel, and Harris's	20,000	Queely Shiell	The same	Attorney.
*Farm	8,000	John and M. Kirwan.		
*Trant's and Locust Valley	7,900	Dominick Trant, deceased	William Shiell	Executor.
*Farrell's	10,000	Edward Kensington	Edmond Semper	Lessee.
Bugby Hole and Silcott's	2,000	The same	The same	Lessee of Bugby Hole.
*German's Bay	3,500	Heirs of Dudley Semper	William Shiell	Receiver in Chancery.
Morris's	1,000	William Shiell.		
Bushy Park	750	Alfred Pynsent	Charles Venn	Attorney.
O'Gara's	200	John P. Trott.		
Power's	200	Queely Shiell	William Shiell	Attorney.
Edmond Semper's Cove	1,000	The same	The same	The same.
Dudley Semper's Cove	1,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper	The same	Receiver in Chancery.
*Galway's	7,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand	Augustus V. Drury	Attorney.
*Roache's	12,000	Sir T. Neave, Bart.	Charles Venn	The same.
Fergus Mountain	2,000	Misses Hamilton.		
*Balaam's	3,500	Queely Shiell	William Shiell	Attorney.
*Nugent's	5,000	Sir John Talbot, Bart.	Denis Farrell	The same.
*Frye's	6,000	Queely Shiell	William Shiell	The same.
*Richmond's	9,000	The same	The same	The same.
*Grove	6,000	The same	The same	The same.
*Bransby's	7,000	Robert Dobridge, deceased	John Dobridge	Heir in possession.
*Dagnum	10,000	Sir Thomas Neave, Bart.	Charles Venn	Attorney.
*Webb's	8,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand	Augustus V. Drury	The same.
*Parson's	7,000	J. P. Trott and T. H. Percy.		
*Amersham's	8,000	Warner Ottley, deceased	William Shiell	Lessee.
*Broderick's	10,000	G. S. Martin and F. Shand	Augustus V. Drury	Attorney.
*Spring, and Reid's Hill	10,000	Edward Kensington	William Shiell	Lessee.
*Weeks's	6,000	Heirs of Dudley Semper	William Shiell	Receiver in Chancery.
*Symes and Lees	9,000	William D. Furlonge.		
*Gage's	7,000	Sir Henry Gage, Bart.	Edmond Semper	Lessee.
Lady Cole's	500	Captain Kennedy, R.N.	John Osborn	Attorney.
*Sir Patrick Blake's	2,000	Sir Patrick Blake	William Shiell	Lessee.
Château de Belair	1,500	Elizabeth Pilkington	Patrick Burns	Attorney.
Two Rivers	300	Chambers and Meade		
Carroll's	500	Eliza Robertson	William Chambers	Attorney.

PROVISION PROPERTIES.

Name of Estate.	Value in Currency.	Name of Owner.	Name of Estate.	Value in Currency.	Name of Owner.
	£.			£.	
Peter Gibbons's . .	100	Peter Gibbons.	Julius Allen's . . .	200	Julius Allen.
Thomas Weeks's . .	100	Thomas Weeks.	Elsy Roach's . . .	100	Elsy Roach.
George Kepple's . .	100	George Kepple.	James Wyke's . .	50	James Wyke.
Quamina Grinwell's .	200	Quamina Grinwell.	Samuel Hussey's . .	50	Samuel Hussey.
Michael Fleming's .	50	Michael Fleming.	Diana Bramble's . .	50	Diana Bramble.
Primus Willar's . .	50	Primus Willar.	Prince Ryley's . .	50	Prince Ryley.
Edward Frith's . .	50	Edward Frith.	Emma Parsons' . .	50	Emma Parsons.
John Northward's . .	50	John Northward.	John Williams' . .	100	John Williams.
Ann Daley's . . .	50	Ann Daley.	Susanna Hodges' . .	50	Susanna Hodges.
Matthew Pond's . .	50	Matthew Pond.	Philip Reed's . . .	50	Philip Reed.
Frederick Dubery's .	50	Frederick Dubery.	Jack Knight's . . .	50	Jack Knight.
John Locker and others	350	John Locker and others.	Lawrence Weeks' . .	50	Lawrence Weeks.
Samuel Doway's . .	50	Samuel Doway.	Mary Osborn's . .	50	Mary Osborn.
Hannah Weeks' . .	150	Hannah Weeks.	French Jose's . . .	50	French Jose.
John Blake's . . .	150	John Blake.	Patrick Allers' . . .	100	Patrick Allers.
Edward Allen's . .	150	Edward Allen.	Eliza Wyke's . . .	100	Eliza Wyke.
Betsy Jeffers' . . .	150	Betsy Jeffers.	Robert Brown's . .	50	Robert Brown.
Sarah Gordon's . .	150	Sarah Gordon.	John Locker's . . .	50	John Locker.
Ann Weeks' . . .	100	Ann Weeks.	Buckle Winspear's .	50	Buckle Winspear.
John Locker's . . .	200	John Locker.	John Roach's . . .	250	John Roach.
Quaw White's . . .	100	Quaw White.	John Dyer's . . .	50	John Dyer.
Spring Gardens . .	200	Delia Parler.	Ann Chambers's . .	100	Ann Chambers.
Henry Connell's . .	50	Henry Connell.	Peter Dyer's . . .	100	Peter Dyer.
Peter West and others.	100	Peter West and others.	Simon Bean's . . .	150	Simon Bean.
Fairy Walk . . .	100	Edwin Thwaites.	Jibboom	300	Heirs of Robert Dyett.
8t. George's Hill . .	400	Mrs. Wheatland.	Trott and Percy's . .	100	J. P. Trott and J. H. Percy.
Constantine Meade. .	150	Constantine Meade.			
John Peters' . . .	100	John Peters.	George S. Martin's .	100	George S. Martin.
Joseph Locker's . .	100	Joseph Locker.	Estate, Dudley Semper	300	Heirs of Dudley Semper.
Quaw White's . . .	100	Quaw White.			
John N. Shiell's . .	100	John N. Shiell.	Miss Ryan's . . .	100	Miss Ryan.
Ann Harris . . .	100	Ann Harris.	George John's . . .	150	George John.
Samuel Doway's . .	100	Samuel Doway.	John Bramble's . .	150	John Bramble.
Maria Young's . .	200	Maria Young.	Peter Delvin's . . .	100	Peter Delvin.
Eleanor Sweeny's . .	100	Heirs of Eleanor Sweeny.	Henry Corbett's . .	300	Henry Corbett.

Total value, 298,000*l.*, including all properties out of the town of Plymouth.

REMARKS.—The value set opposite to each sugar and stock estate was fixed at that prosperous period of West Indian affairs when these properties may have brought those sums. At this time, however, such valuation is far above their actual worth.

Certified,

(Signed) HENRY LOVING,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 7 in No. 16.

ANSWER to LIST of QUERIES, No. 1.

List of Estates sold by the Marshal during the last Three Years.	Date of Year.	Nature of Estate.	Cultivated or Uncultivated.	Value in the Levy Bill.	Sold for Taxes.	Default under Loan Act.	Under Private Execution.	Amount Sold for.	Amount of Taxes.	Amount of Default under Loan Act.	Amount of Private Execution.	Marshal's Fees and other Expenses.
				£.				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Fergus' Mountain .	1845	Provision	Uncultivated . . .	2,000	For taxes .	..	..	501 0 0	40 0 0	..	..	30 0 0
Lawyer's Estate . .	,,	Stock .	,,	2,500	,,	..	..	424 0 0	17 17 0	..	..	28 1 10
Right and title of Martin Semper in—												
The Hermitage .	,,	Sugar .	Cultivated by the negroes to a trifling extent on the metayer or division plan.	10,000	..	..	Sold under private execution.	408 0 0	..	..	2,626 1 9½	29 4 6
Upper and Lower Stretham.	,,	,,		7,000	..	..						
Ryley's, Week's .	,,	,,		6,000	..	..						
German's Bay .	,,	,,		3,500	..	..						
Cove and Dowdy's Bay.	,,	Stock .		1,200	..	..						
Hermitage Estate .	1846	Sugar .	,,	10,000	For taxes .	..	..	115 0 0	100 0 0	..	..	8 5 0
Week's Estate . .	,,	,,	,,	6,000	,,	..	..	75 0 0	60 0 0	..	..	6 5 0
Virgin Islands . .	,,	Provision	Uncultivated . . .	250	..	Default .	..	14 0 0	..	3 16 0	1 0 0	10 1 6
Stretham's and Ryley's	1847	Sugar .	Metayer plan . . .	7,000	For taxes .	..	..	70 0 0	70 0 0	..	..	6 0 0
German's Bay . .	,,	,,	,,	3,500	,,	..	..	35 0 0	35 0 0	..	..	4 5 0
Cove and Dowdy's Bay	,,	Stock .	Uncultivated . . .	1,200	,,	..	..	14 0 0	12 0 0	..	..	5 14 0
Hell Gate . . .	,,	,,	,,	350	,,	..	..	3 12 0	3 10 0	..	..	0 3 7
Thatched Valley . .	,,	,,	,,	150	,,	..	..	1 12 0	1 10 0	..	..	0 1 8
Brinn's Gut . . .	,,	,,	,,	250	,,	..	..	2 12 0	2 10 0	..	..	0 2 7
Folly and Carr's Bay .	,,	Sugar .	Cultivated on the metayer plan.	8,000	,,	..	..	80 0 0	80 0 0	..	..	14 2 0
Barzey's	,,	,,	,,	6,000	,,	..	..	60 0 0	60 0 0			
Look Out . . .	,,	,,	,,	2,000	,,	..	..	20 0 0	20 0 0			
Blake's	,,	,,	,,	2,000	,,	..	..	20 0 0	20 0 0			
Underwood's . . .	,,	,,	,,	100	,,	..	..	1 0 0	1 0 0			

(Signed) WILLIAM T. HAMILTON, P.M.

Answer to List of Queries, No. 2.

List of Houses sold by the Marshal during the last Three Years.	Date.	Value in Levy Bill.	Sold for Taxes.	Default under Loan Act.	Private Execution.	Amount of Taxes.	Default under Loan Act.	Under Private Execution.	Amount sold for.	Marshal's Fees and other Expenses.
		£. s. d.				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
House in Parliament-street	1845	200 0 0	Taxes	..	..	4 0 0	..	..	160 0 0	13 0 0
House in George-street	,,	200 0 0	Ditto	..	..	4 0 0	..	..	12 0 0	5 12 0
Right and title of Martin Semper to house in George-street.	,,	1,000 0 0	..	..						
House in Strand, No. 1	,,	500 0 0	..	..	Private execution	..	..	2,626 1 9½	270 0 0	19 14 2
House in ditto, No. 2	,,	500 0 0	..	..						
House in ditto, No. 3	,,	500 0 0	..	..						
House in Wapping	,,	250 0 0	Taxes	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	66 0 0	8 6 0
Right and title of Michael J. Semper to house in George-street.	,,	1,000 0 0	..	..						
House in Strand, No. 1	,,	500 0 0	..	..	Private execution	..	..	1,147 3 11¼	400 0 0	22 17 6
House in ditto, No. 2	,,	500 0 0	..	..						
House in ditto, No. 3	,,	500 0 0	..	..						
House in Water-lane	1846	200 0 0	Taxes	..	..	2 0 0	..	..	23 0 0	8 2 0
House in George-street	,,	300 0 0	Ditto	..	..	3 0 0	..	..	12 0 0	5 12 0
House in Parliament-street	,,	1,000 0 0	..	Loan Act	..	..	Cy.500 0 0	51 0 0	400 0 0	21 12 6
House in Water-lane	1847	200 0 0	..	..	Private execution	..	..	232 5 2	63 0 0	18 18 0
House in George-street	,,	100 0 0	..	..	Ditto	..	..	149 8 6	45 0 0	10 2 6
House in Parliament-street	,,	500 0 0	..	..	Ditto	..	..	894 7 6	551 0 0	31 17 6
House in George-street-lane	,,	400 0 0	..	..	Ditto	..	..		210 0 0	
House in ditto	,,	1,000 0 0	Taxes	..	..	10 0 0	..	..	10 0 0	
House in Strand, No. 1	,,	500 0 0	Ditto	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	5 0 0	11 5 0
House in ditto, No. 2	,,	500 0 0	Ditto	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	5 0 0	
House in ditto, No. 3	,,	500 0 0	Ditto	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	5 0 0	
House in George-street-lane, No. 1	,,	50 0 0	Ditto	..	..	0 10 0	..	..		
House in ditto, No. 2	,,	300 0 0	Ditto	..	..	3 0 0	..	..	6 12 0	7 17 0
House in ditto, No. 3	,,	300 0 0	Ditto	..	..	3 0 0	..	..		
House in John-street	,,	50 0 0	Ditto	..	..	0 10 0	..	..	0 12 0	..
House in George-street-lane	,,	400 0 0	..	Loan Act	..	..	Stg. 3 19 0	..	55 0 0	10 13 6
House in Water-lane	,,	200 0 0	..	Ditto	..	..	Stg. 1 10 0	..	6 8 5	3 0 11
House in Parliament-street	,,	200 0 0	..	..	Private execution	..	..	1,147 0 0	53 0 0	30 15 0
House in George-street	,,	200 0 0	..	..	..	..	..			

(Signed) Wm. T. Hamilton, P. M.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

Encl. 8 in No. 16.

Enclosure 8 in No. 16.

ADDRESS of Mr. President BAYNES to the Legislature.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Honourable Board of Council,
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly,

A PERIOD of eighteen months, a longer space of time than usual, has elapsed since I last met you. Happy indeed should I feel were it in my power to offer you my congratulations on the improved state of the country. I have not, I deplore to say, such satisfactory communication to impart. A painful retrospect and a doubtful future, affording no matter for a gratifying review, and but little for cheering anticipation, unhappily occupy at the present moment the minds of all with either keen regret or fearful foreboding. Returning to you at a time of so much distress, after the short absence of a single year, at the commencement of which I left you in comparative prosperity, finding trade diminishing, agriculture languishing, cultivation on many estates abandoned, resources exhausted or impaired, confidence extinct, education almost given up, I feel a melancholy satisfaction at having been absent from the island when it first experienced reverses which my humble services could neither have averted nor alleviated.

The immediate cause of the great and general distress at present prevailing throughout these colonies is to be traced almost entirely to circumstances over which they could exercise no control, which it was difficult to foresee and impossible to counteract. Of these, the admission of slave-cultivated sugars into the British market, at a greatly reduced rate of duty, has without doubt been the principal; but it is an error to attribute altogether the fall in price which has taken place, and has defeated calculation, to the mere competition we have now to sustain with slave-holding countries. Other depressing influences have been at work, and combining with diminished protection have placed an additional load on the British planter, which, though the effects may continue to be felt for a time after the cessation of their causes, happily cannot in the nature of things be permanent.

The mighty empire of which this island forms so inconsiderable a portion, but to which it is nevertheless our glory and happiness to belong, was last year shaken to its centre by a calamity which, extending over a large part of the United Kingdom, menaced, indeed afflicted or affected, the whole. Of the 24,000,000 who form the population of the British islands, an entire third suffered, and the remainder apprehended all the horrors of famine. The price of almost every article of human sustenance rose to an unprecedented height. Public prayers were offered up, fasts appointed, the national purse was drained for the relief of the sufferers, and private contributions to a vast aggregate amount cheerfully afforded by the sympathy and commiseration of the inhabitants (themselves straitened in their circumstances by the existing pressure) of every nook and corner of Great Britain.

At the commencement of this awful visitation, corn, the growth of the United Kingdom, sugar, that of so many of her colonies, and many other necessaries of life, were still protected against competition by high duties. An enlightened Government saw the necessity of removing all obstacles in the way of a free supply of food. A desperate struggle ensued, in which individual interests vainly strove against, and was finally sacrificed to national safety. The West India proprietor shared the fate of the British landlord. Protective duties were either swept away or marked for gradual extinction.

Let me here call your attention to the significant words of the able and talented individual who now presides over the destinies of this government on this interesting subject, on which I fear that delusive hopes and futile expectations are still entertained by many.

"It is unnecessary for me," says his Excellency in his address to the legislature of Antigua, "to enter into the great vexed question of free trade. The battle has been fought, and after a long and severe contest won by the advocates of that system, and it is idle to expect that the commercial relations of the United Kingdom will henceforth be guided by any other spirit."

We may, gentlemen, rest assured that the Government of our mother country has acted and will continue in all its relations with these colonies to be guided by parental solicitude. This measure has not been the result of choice, but of necessity. Unhappily the wisdom and experience which carried it into effect could not suggest means of immediate extrication from all the inconveniences inseparable from so sudden a change. The great motive principle must not, however, be mistaken; it was not the withdrawing of protection from the West Indian, but the sustenance of the British population.

It is certain that Her Majesty's Government will afford these colonies every relief consistent with equity towards the rights of others, and compatible with the general welfare of our common country. Your interests, your claims, your rights, will assuredly be anxiously looked into and carefully considered.

I have already said in the beginning of my address that the future is doubtful. Do I go further, and think it hopeless? Certainly not; but much, almost all, depends on yourselves. You know the worst. It seems next to certain that the last remnant of protection will cease in 1851. At the bottom we can fall no lower. Let us see what elements exist for our re-ascent, let us hope no Sisyphian labour.

1stly. Although it would not become a subordinate officer like myself to discuss the chances of a reduction of the duties on your sugars, I am sensible of no temerity in expressing my opinion, that if they can be lessened without loss to the revenue, as for my own part I think they can, the boon will probably be granted, and, if accorded, it cannot fail to prove a great alleviation to the load now pressing on you, overweighted as you at present are in your race with the grower of slave-cultivated sugars.

2ndly. If the British grower is no longer to receive protection against any interest, it is but reasonable and fair that no interest should be protected against him. I need not particularize. The great extent to which relief can in this manner be afforded is known to us all; and this knowledge, by sustaining our hopes and stimulating our exertions, may serve to encourage us not to prejudice our future prospects by relaxing our efforts during this season of severe trial.

Owing to the scantiness of our resources, the advantages of African immigration, so eagerly demanded, and so confidently depended on by most of our sister colonies, are not open to us. Useful immigration can scarcely be looked for in a country in which money wages do not exceed 5½*d.* per diem. Moreover it is not labour, but capital, and the means to draw the labour out and pay for it, that are wanting to us. We have at this moment, exporting on an average not more than 800 hogsheads of sugar, a population as numerous as when the island sent home thrice that quantity.

These appear to me to be the modes in which relief can chiefly be extended to us by Her Majesty's Government. For other means of escape from impending difficulties we must look to ourselves. Two objects seem essentially necessary to ensure the future profitable cultivation of sugar in this island—an increase of quantity, and a diminution of the cost of production. Are they attainable? It will not, I think, prove altogether useless to take a brief review of the principles still existing which may lead us to entertain a reasonable expectation that they are so, or at least induce us to make a fair trial.

1stly. The application, as regards both culture and manufacture, of improved methods now coming into operation, whether they tend to increase the quantity or ameliorate the quality of your staples.

2ndly. Want of capital no doubt precludes the construction in this island of railways, and even tramways, but the general substitution of steam for the uncertain wind and laborious cattle mill, might be effected without considerable outlay. It would operate beneficially in expediting the manufacture of sugar, and thus reducing its cost. In an island in which estates are so small, and in most parts lie so close to each other, common factories for the manufacture of produce, situated at convenient distances from the properties combining to establish them (a selection might be made from those at present existing, not a single new set of buildings need be erected), appear to me to offer the prospect of a great saving of labour, and, in consequence, a reduction of expense. I would suggest, in addition, that the manufactured produce should be conveyed to the place of embarkation by mules; also the common property of the owners of the factory.

3rdly. Nothing but good can possibly result from your relinquishing the prevailing system of tenancy at will, and the consequent confusing of what properly ought to be rent with wages, and the introduction in its place of a money rent. If a tenant paid a fixed and moderate sum for the tenements occupied by him, the proprietor would receive in rent what he would lose in labour, and he would soon find the profit arising from a negro village a source of regular income to him, in addition to the produce of his estate, and one more independent of bad seasons and other prejudicial contingencies, which so often distressingly blight the hopes of the agriculturists. The present practice reverses the natural order of labour and payment, and removes, instead of applying, a stimulus to cultivation. The wants of the labourer being gratuitously provided for from his provision grounds beforehand, there is a total absence of that chief and sometimes sole incentive to industry—the necessity of providing for daily sustenance.

4thly. The punctual payment, weekly, of the wages of the labourer. Irregular payment is infallibly productive of insufficient labour. The payment also in all cases of fair and sufficient wages, and the exaction, in return, of a fair and sufficient day's labour,—say nine hours, as in Barbados, where I believe wages average 9*d.* sterling per diem. Here they do not exceed 5½*d.*; but it is a fact well known to us all, that the workman does not for that sum afford his employer four hours of honest labour. Wages are then really higher here than in Barbados, and very considerably so, if we view in such light the return obtained by the labourers from their provision grounds. By raising wages to the Barbados standard, compensating the excess over the present rate, by requiring it for rent of houses and grounds (although this charge must naturally vary with the accommodation of the buildings and extent of land occupied), and by insisting on nine hours of fair work, much more labour would certainly be obtained under your present imperfect system, and yet neither the labourer nor employer suffer in their equitable interests by this arrangement.

5thly. Although I have often called your attention to, I have never succeeded in sufficiently impressing on your minds, the necessity of a just and equitable contract law, binding alike on master and servant, without which the improvements just recommended cannot be carried into effect. A law of this nature, by compelling the observance of reciprocal obligations, would, as I have more than once told you from this place, not only increase the quantity of your produce, but also diminish the cost of producing it.

6thly. Another great saving may, I think, be effected by a diminution of the charges on freight, now I believe about 4*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., or 4*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Surely this is disproportionately high, when the average price of sugar in the market is 21*l.* per ton., 14*l.* of which are absorbed by the wages of the labourers, cost of manufacture, taxes, &c. Thus you pay at present, for mere carriage, nearly 21½ per cent. on the gross, and 63¾ per cent. on the value of your produce, after paying the cost of production.

I have now, it appears to me, adverted to the principal means by the application of which you may reasonably hope to sustain yourselves under the pressure of present difficulties.

MONTSERRAT.

Had anything recommended in the foregoing suggestions appeared to me necessarily to require a large outlay, I should not have submitted it to your consideration in the present impoverished state of the country. But the improvements hinted at under the first and second heads do not involve much cost; and the means required to pay your labourers must be forthcoming at some time, whether weekly or half-yearly; if not, cultivation must cease altogether, or subside into the rude expedient of agriculture in its infancy, now fast disappearing from Europe, before maturer experience and more enlightened usage; I mean the metayer or division system. The increase of wages alluded to in the fourth place would be compensated by the amount which would return to you in form of rent. The remainder of these suggestions all tend directly to effect a diminution of your expenses. Will they, is still the question, if put in practice, secure the two great objects that they are designed to attain—an increase of produce and a diminished cost of production, which I have assumed as necessary to the continued profitable cultivation of sugar? I think they will; I know that no harm can result from making the experiment.

The apologue of Hercules and the Waggoner is an old fable, but it contains an eternal truth.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly,

I am persuaded that you will not fail to turn your earnest attention to the state of the revenue, and the means of meeting the public exigencies. The wise and prudent measure suggested to you, in his anxious solicitude for your welfare, by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, that of passing an Act for raising a permanent revenue, cannot fail to restore and sustain the public credit, and to meet the approval of Her Majesty's Government, to whose beneficence in advancing so large a loan for the restoration of your buildings, overthrown or damaged by the calamitous visitation in February 1843, many of yourselves and of your constituents are so deeply indebted. The discharge of your engagements on this head will, I feel assured, be honourably and carefully provided for. I need not point out to you the necessity of the strict economy in your expenditure so indispensable in this season of severe distress.

Mr. President and Members of the Honourable Board of Council,

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly,

Of the various measures proposed to you by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief during his visit to this island, some, I am aware, are under your consideration; others no doubt will receive it. A permanent Tax Bill, and an Insolvent Debtors' Act, with fixed sessional meetings of the Legislature, will greatly improve the general condition of the country. Whilst on this subject I would remind you of the communication of his Lordship the Secretary of State for the Colonies, recommending certain amendments to the Cattle Tax Act, which, though transmitted to you so far back as November 1846, has not yet received the consideration of the Legislature.

We have no Act in force in the island for duly regulating the exercise of elective franchise; much uncertainty always, and great abuses often in consequence, prevail at elections; I solicit your early attention to the means of providing a remedy for this serious evil, affecting as it does the very foundation of the bulwark of constitutional liberty.

I have to thank you for two most useful enactments; that for providing a suitable maintenance for the destitute poor, and that for the appointment of town wardens; they will no doubt be productive of highly beneficial effects.

The 9th and 10th Vict., c. 94, authorizes the abolition of certain duties imposed during the preceding year by the 8th and 9th Vict., c. 93. It will be for you to consider the expediency of availing yourselves of this concession. It would not, I am aware, in the present state of your finances, be in your power to relieve the public from taxation to that amount; but should you determine on removing them as imperial imposts, they may be advantageously transferred to the local tariff, which, being lower than in any of the neighbouring islands, is, there is no doubt, susceptible of profitable increase.

Notwithstanding the exertion of the visiting justices, it is found difficult to maintain proper order and discipline in the gaol of this town, chiefly I am of opinion owing to the absence of adequate means of coercion, of which solitary cells have always been found amongst the most efficient in preserving prison discipline. With the exception of one large dark room, formerly a powder magazine, there are no such places of restraint in the institution. The number of prisoners at present under sentence of hard labour is sufficient to erect, under the superintendence of a mason, two or more of such cells. Stones may be gathered on the neighbouring beach. Of timber work there need be little; so that a few hogsheads of lime would be all the additional expense incurred. I strongly recommend the employment of a matron to superintend the female prisoners, a task which can be but imperfectly and certainly not decorously performed by males.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, in his address to the Legislature of Antigua, advises the re-organization of the militia force. His Excellency's reasons equally apply to this portion of his government. Although we, at present, enjoy the blessings of peace, it is prudent to be prepared for the possible contingency of war. I apprehend no difficulty in raising a body of militia at once sufficiently strong and respectable on the eligible plan proposed by Lord Stanley, when Secretary for the Colonies. It is obvious, that in order to render such a force really serviceable and effective, all distinctions based merely on race or colour must be strictly guarded against.

I am aware, not from any communication on the subject received from the Governor-in-Chief, but derived from other sources, that the prayer of Montserrat for an incorporation

with the more important and flourishing island of Antigua has been by his Excellency submitted and strongly recommended to the Legislature of that colony; may the result be beneficial to both.

It will be my duty to lay before you several communications from the Governor-in-Chief, amongst these another one of the many urgent despatches of the Colonial Office on the subject of the education and industrial training of the labouring population, an object to the success of which not only Her Majesty's Government, but almost every individual in the British empire capable of understanding its necessity or of appreciating its benefits, look with intensest interest. The education of the working classes has, I regret to admit, greatly fallen off in Montserrat during the last twelve months, owing to the want of sufficient means and contributions to sustain the different schools. A grant from you, however small, voted with the view of retrieving lost ground and making further progress, would be of unspeakable use by affording a praiseworthy example, and showing every member of the community that you participate and sympathize with the universal yearning of the wise and good for the extension to those who so much need it of a blessing so essential to the advance and amelioration of the human race. A small boon from you will resemble the widow's mite; it will be like a flower in the desert, the more beautiful, the more grateful, the more acceptable, from our knowledge of the poverty of the soil which has produced it.

Gentlemen, I have now discharged my duty to the best of my humble ability in bringing the present condition and future prospects of the island under your notice. That you will do yours by earnestly endeavouring to remedy or alleviate existing evils, and thus prepare the way for a happier future, I am convinced. May the blessing of the Divine disposer of events prosper our joint efforts for the common good.

Government House, Montserrat, December 15, 1847. (Signed) EDWARD DACRES BAYNES.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY.

Antigua, Government House, St. John's,
May 4, 1848.
(*Received June* 3, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1847, together with the copy of a report thereon, which I have received from the President administering that Government.

Although the various adverse circumstances adverted to by Mr. Hay, have operated most injuriously on the agricultural prosperity of these islands, and have tended to check that progress towards amelioration which there seemed reason to hope for in 1846, it is nevertheless satisfactory to observe that public credit has improved, that the attention of the Legislature has been directed to salutary measures of reform, and that the institutions of the colony continue to be maintained on an effective footing.

I concur generally in the views expressed by Mr. Hay, of the present condition and future prospects of the Virgin Islands; but having so recently made your Lordship acquainted with the opinions which I have been led to form on the causes and circumstances of the distress and depression which universally prevail throughout the colonies committed to my charge, it seems unnecessary on this occasion for me to say more than that, since the date of the Despatch to which I refer, the 26th December last, I see no reason to change the opinions then expressed by me.

It is due to the emancipated labourers to remark, that under the trying ordeal to which they have been necessarily subjected,—I allude to the reduction of wages to one-half of previous prices,—their conduct has been distinguished by good sense, forbearance, and moderation; and although it has been occasionally represented that the quantity of work performed for sixpence per day is less than what was obtained for a shilling, the negroes continue to give their labour freely and steadily at the reduced rates.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &. (Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Encl. in No. 17.

Enclosure in No. 17.

SIR, Virgin Islands, Tortola, April 22, 1848.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency, the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1847.

These returns, indicative of little change in the general condition of the colony during the period which they embrace, would seem on the whole, to favour the hope of improvement expressed in my last Report. But this prospect is for the present moment disturbed by the unpromising appearances prevailing, and I am compelled to allow that the gloomy anticipations encouraged by some, are not without foundation.

The withdrawal by a mercantile house in England, of the capital hitherto employed annually in the maintenance of more than a third of the sugar cultivation of the colony, has alone been sufficient to give a severe shock, the failure that led to this withdrawal entailing a loss on the community from which the means of recovery are not within immediate prospect. There are now no properties in the Virgin Islands, whose holders are not embarrassed for want of capital or credit, sufficient to enable them to carry on the simplest method of cultivation effectively.

The precarious position in which the West Indian interests generally have been viewed of late, very much enhances difficulties of this nature, lessening credit, and disabling those concerned in property from taking active measures to increase its remunerative value, and must, I fear, produce a still greater depression than already prevails, unless influences not at present in existence are brought into action.

Present circumstances are thus undoubtedly disheartening.

A general retrospective view of former years, shows a slightly varied alternation of better and worse, with an increasing tendency to the latter.

The natural resources, however, which (deemed impoverished) have resisted difficulties heretofore, are yet sufficient to enable the colony to recover some degree of prosperity ; and, notwithstanding the fact that the result of a comparison of late with former years is at first sight unfavourable, I am still willing to indulge the hope of improvement,

I subjoin a statement in a tabular form, containing returns showing the comparative state of revenue and expenditure, trade and exported produce, from 1835 to 1847. No records are found here of previous years, except 1830, which is also given.

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.	Hogsheads of Sugar exported.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	
1830	809	In Arrear.	No Return.	No Return.	1,173
1831	No Return.	No Return.	,,	,,	No Return.
1832	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
1833	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
1834	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,
1835	508	In Arrear.	15,576	20,890	977
1836	2,796	,,	13,337	23,110	998
1837	2,544	,,	19,574	26,385	940
1838	2,199	,,	7,260	11,940	463
1839	1,964	,,	10,456	16,105	674
1840	2,926	,,	17,401	14,568	473
1841	1,668	1,718	14,133	22,276	786
1842	2,331	2,508	9,454	14,809	473
1843	2,404	2,340	11,300	14,755	541
1844	1,522	2,272	8,052	13,667	398
1845	2,286	2,326	9,200	14,805	735
1846	1,922	1,865	9,256	8,005	464
1847	2,105	2,047	9,386	13,071	610
Average of nine years, from 1838 to 1846	2,135	2,235	10,723	14,547	556
Average of three years, from 1844 to 1846	1,910	2,154	8,836	12,159	532
1847 . . .	2,105	2,047	9,386	13,071	610

In the earlier years, while agriculture and manufacture were in a comparatively flourishing state, there was a deplorable neglect of every other subject of public interest. There was little or no legislation, no provision made to defray the expenses of the local Government, and consequently a heavy debt allowed to accumulate in years of prosperity, to burden the country withal when suffering from other pressure. Hurricanes have swept away and destroyed a large amount of fixed capital and standing crops. Resident capitalists became involved, and property passed rapidly into different successive hands, interested in forcing out of the land the repayment of liabilities incurred by the previous holders, a sure method of hastening exhaustion.

The abolition of slavery produced, like all great changes, a revolution injurious in its immediate action to many established interests, while the full practical benefits to grow out of the change have been as yet undeveloped, and difficulties still arise to be contended against with weakened energies.

Years of drought, entailing heavy losses, have followed in quick succession, disabling the planter from maintaining cultivation, by depriving him of the farming capital for reinvestment.

These difficulties and disasters have been borne with the hope of change for the better, and there is still room for economy and perseverance to ensure a remunerative return, unless the apprehended ruin be invited by a wish to prove that it is inevitable.

In other places the labour market is unsupplied. In this colony there is labour ample to meet any present demand: capital is alone wanting; and although it may be truly urged that some favourable stimulus would be desirable, yet recent events, disastrous in themselves, may possibly cause a partial influx, as speculators may be induced, by the very low value at which estates are at present rated, to invest their capital in land.

The plan of working for shares of the produce has been adopted as the only alternative under existing circumstances, and, with good management, has been found to succeed.

The system has its advantages at such a moment as the present, but its general adoption, as the sole method of cultivating the staple, is not to be desired. It tends in theory to produce a greater community of interest between the tiller and the owner of the soil; but it is questionable how far the peasantry are capable of appreciating and practically working it out. Experience in other parts of the world has shown that the metairie system may save from ruin, but never enriches.

In the meantime it is desirable to provide by law for the summary adjustment of questions arising out of agreements of this kind. Few questions indeed are likely to arise where good management is exercised, or where the people have confidence in the proprietor or manager, which I believe to be the general case. One instance has, however, occurred of an attempt to defraud the labourers of their portion of the produce; and your Excellency is aware that it has been proposed to the Legislature that the provisions of the law of contracts between masters and servants should be extended to these agreements.

The returns above referred to show, that if an average of the last nine years, from 1835 to 1846, gives a result in each department unfavourable to 1847, yet the returns for the three immediately preceding years, 1844, 1845, and 1846, are not found, on an average, to equal those of 1847. The revenue and expenditure, instead of bearing no proportion to each other, have, within the last few years, been adjusted; the expenditure being much reduced, the current debt liquidated to a fractional amount, and the public credit (low as it still is) much improved. Where there was formerly about 1,000*l.* or 1,500*l.* of negotiable public paper constantly afloat at a heavy discount, there have been of late cash payments from the treasury, and a regular discharge of all immediate liabilities for the public service, while, at the same time, the people have been relieved of a considerable portion of the colonial duties on all imports coming under the denomination of necessaries; and if, on the whole, the official returns are found within the last nine years to indicate a falling-off, a comparison with the last three years is, on an average, favourable to 1847 in every point of view. It cannot, it is true, be said that any community whose products have diminished both in quantity and value, and whose immediate prospects are shown to be so clouded, is improving merely because its finances are better adjusted; but, on the other hand, it cannot be denied that a country possesses at least the elements

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

of improvement when, in times of scarcity and difficulty, there is still a progressive recovery from financial embarrassment, and an approach to solvency in the departments of the government, without the imposition of any additional burdens on the people.

Various beneficial measures have been passed by the legislature during the past year, and others are in progress; but, from the peculiar constitution of the popular branch, arising out of the narrow limits afforded by the population for the selection of representatives, whose avocations or habits permit them to attend to their public duties, the legislative sessions are very uncertain, and their proceedings more dilatory than could be desired.

The returns under the head of education show, in respect of numbers, that a very great progress has been made during the past year. The increase has been principally in the schools under the management of the Wesleyan Missionaries, who exercise a very extensive, and of late much improved, influence over the people. The number of scholars attending the schools attached to the Church Establishment are about the same as in the previous year; those attending the Wesleyan schools have nearly doubled their number. The total number of attendants at school amounted in 1846 to 749; the number in 1847 is shown to have increased to 1,247.

A school established by me about a year ago in the island of Anegada on industrial principles has been noticed by the stipendiary magistrate in his half-yearly returns. I am happy to say that, so far as I can learn (for Anegada is not easily visited), the school has succeeded.

I am unable at present to give you any further details as to the working of the school than are contained in the stipendiary magistrate's returns; but, from the master's reports, it would appear that the industrial character given to the school by such occupations in leisure hours, under his superintendence, as walling in and cultivating a garden, the making of fishing nets, and the plaiting of straw for hats, has been cheerfully appreciated.

Associations of the nature of benefit or mutual assurance societies are much required. The want of medical attendance, since the withdrawal of the allowance formerly granted on estates for this purpose, has been seriously felt, and would seem alone sufficient to have engaged the people to unite in the formation of these most useful institutions. Attempts have been made from time to time since 1839 to establish them, but with little success until recently. The difficulty of providing in this colony, where there is so little stability in public or private property, for the secure investment of the funds of such associations has been explained by me in a recent Despatch, and may be assumed to have been one of the causes of their failure. There seems to be, however, an increasing disposition to apprehend the necessity for a provision for the future, and societies are now in full progress; they have been formed principally among the members of the Wesleyan congregation, the greater portion of the inhabitants of the colony being of that persuasion.

The peasantry continue to be peaceful and orderly; and, patient under the pressure of the times, have shown themselves willing to labour on moderate terms.

Serious offences against the law have not increased, and though the convictions for petty offences are rather more numerous on the face of the official returns, they are too unimportant and casual to require further notice.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 18.

No. 18.

(No. 24.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to Earl Grey.

Antigua, Government House, St. John's,
May 8, 1848.

(*Received June* 3, 1848.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of the Island of Nevis for the year 1847, together with a copy of the Report

NEVIS

2.

1.

thereon, which I have received from the President administering that Government.

I much regret that the favourable view taken by Mr. Shortland, of the affairs of this colony last year has not been realized; the causes assigned by him, and which have to a greater or less extent, retarded the agricultural prosperity of the whole of the British West Indies, are sufficient to account for the retrogression which has been experienced. Although it must be admitted that future prospects are gloomy, and that the struggle into which the employer of free labour has been forced, is of doubtful issue, I encourage the hope, that if the present crisis, now I trust drawing to a close, were once passed, returning confidence and better prices may furnish the means of carrying on the profitable cultivation of estates, and comparative success may yet be retrieved, and that Her Majesty's possessions in these seas may continue to hold their rank amongst the valuable colonial dependencies of the empire.

Among the general depression, it is satisfactory to observe that no public debt has been incurred, the revenue raised within the year having been more than equal to the expenditure; and that the institutions of the island are maintained on an effective footing, and that education, so directly essential to the advancement of the emancipated race, and indirectly to the welfare of all classes, is steadily progressing.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Encl. in No. 18.

(No. 33.)

SIR, Government House, Nevis, May 3, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" for the year 1847. I regret it is out of my power to take the same favourable view of the condition and prospects of the colony that I was enabled to do on a similar occasion last year. The distress which has so universally prevailed has visited this island with peculiar hardship, and caused a general depression and stagnation of trade, hitherto unparalleled; nor can a speedy revival be anticipated, as the difficulties now to be encountered are more the result of the absence of capital and credit than the low price of colonial produce. The latter has been compensated for to a great extent by the present abundance of labour, and the very low rate of wages; but the planters are precluded from taking advantage of this favourable circumstance, from the impossibility of obtaining the usual advances, the failure of the West India Bank, and the refusal of the English merchants to accept their bills, having entirely destroyed the system in which West India estates have hitherto been cultivated.

The revenue collected during the year proved equal to the expenditure, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands amounting to 594*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

The crop was unusually large, exceeding any since the days of slavery, when the average number of hogsheads of sugar exported amounted to 4000; on this occasion it reached 3734.

Hogsheads 4,000.
Hogsheads 3,731.

A comparison of the exports with the imports, taken at their estimated value, shows an unusually large balance in favour of the colony, a clear indication of its improving condition before it was overtaken by the late crisis.

1846.
Exports 49,501*l.*
Imports 36,778*l.*

1847.
Exports 78,405*l.*
Imports 37,103*l.*

Balance 41,302*l.*

In public works considerable progress has been made; the court-house now in course of erection will probably be finished towards the end of this year, and the churches which suffered by the earthquake have not only been restored, but considerably enlarged, so as to afford ample accommodation for all classes.

Education, although unaided by the Legislature, is advancing satisfactorily; some improvement has been effected in the Church schools, and I have reason to anticipate still greater.

The population steadily increases; several Portuguese immigrants were introduced by private enterprise, and as labour was at that time scarce, the effect produced was very beneficial; but I am sorry to add that many fell victims to the climate.

NEVIS.

The labouring classes deserve commendation for the very proper spirit in which they have yielded to the altered circumstances of their employers; they seem quite sensible of the inability of the planters to continue the former rate of wages, and work cheerfully at a reduction of more than one-half; but I cannot report equally favourably of the morals of some portion of the community, a hard labour gang, for the two last years unknown, is now in active operation, and rarely consists of less than six to eight persons.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY SHORTLAND.

To Governor Higginson,
&c. &c.

DOMINICA.

No. 19.

DOMINICA.

(No. 18.) No. 19.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to Earl Grey.

Antigua, Government House,
July 22, 1848.
(*Received August* 21, 1848.)

My Lord,

2. I have the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of
1. Dominica for the year 1847, together with a copy of the report thereon, which I have received from the President administering that government.

2. The deficiency in the public finances noticed by the President will, I trust, prove to be only temporary, as it arises chiefly from a falling off in the value of imports, produced in a great measure by the commercial embarrassments of the past year, which for a time so damaged confidence and credit as to have seriously deranged the ordinary operations of trade. It is also expected that when the Acts come into force which have been passed by the local Legislature with a view to the improvement of the revenue, and which have been submitted to your Lordship's consideration, they will augment the public resources.

3. In Dominica, as in all the other islands comprising this general government, grievous distress, both agricultural and commercial, have recently prevailed; and although I cannot affirm that any substantial amendment has yet taken place, I am impressed with the belief that the extreme severity of the ordeal has been passed. The cost of producing sugar has been considerably diminished by the general reduction of wages, and sufficient labour at the reduced rates is obtainable; but the want of capital to carry on the cultivation of estates in an effective and economical manner appears to me to be the great evil to be overcome. Confidence in West India property has been so much shaken by late unfortunate events, that those who have heretofore made advances in anticipation of the proceeds of produce sales now hold back, and very few proprietors are independent of such advances.

4. It is satisfactory to find that notwithstanding the general depression and the great fall in the price of labour, the physical condition of the working population is still equal, if not superior, to that of the corresponding classes of the community in other countries, and that the fruits of their industry suffice not only to keep them above want but to supply every necessary of life. They are represented by the President to be contented and orderly; and I may be permitted to add, that their conduct under recent trying circumstances entitles them to high commendation.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 19.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Government House, Dominica,
July 1, 1848.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Books for this island, in duplicate, and I beg leave to state that the non-transmission of these documents was occasioned by the tardiness of the necessary documents not having been received to arrive earlier at their completion.

Revenue.

I am sorry to observe on this subject that the finance of the colony has decreased considerably, and if measures are not promptly taken I fear that the Treasury will not be able to meet the present exigencies of the country, public officers and the police force being now three months without payment of their salaries.

Public Improvements.

There are none. The canal has been suspended in its progress on account of permission not having as yet been given by the proprietor of the estate in which it passes.

Population.

The Portuguese emigrants continue to give satisfaction to their employers. None have emigrated to this island last year.

Education.

The clergy of the several denominations continue very zealous in training up the children under their respective charges.

Militia.

The Militia Act referred to in the report for 1846 has not as yet been introduced into the Legislature.

Crime.

None of any capital nature has taken place.

Legislative.

Her Majesty in Council has sanctioned several Acts passed by the Legislature of this colony.

Gaol.

This establishment continues as heretofore; no alterations have as yet been carried into effect for its improvement.

Wages.

The wages have been lowered owing to the low rate paid for produce in the mother country. The people appear contented, quiet, and orderly. The colony continues healthy and the crops promise to be good.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. L. BREMNER,
President Administering the Government.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LIGHT to Earl GREY.

Government House, Demerara,
May 3, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received June* 3, 1848.

I DID not anticipate having to prolong my residence in this colony, nor to report on the Blue Book of this year. I shall, however, make some observations on the state of the colony, and add some details which will not be found in the Blue Book, whose columns are limited to the ordinary information. I shall have the honour of reporting—

1st. On the State and Prospects of the Colony.
2nd. Education of the Creoles.
3rd. Crime.
4th. Progress of Civil Laws during the present Year.
5th. Administrator-General's Report.

1. *State and Prospects of the Colony.*

It is useless to conceal the fact of the great distress of the proprietary body, and it will be difficult to avert the ruin threatening a great portion of the

BRITISH GUIANA.

possessors of estates. The planters now suffer from the sudden stoppage of credit which was formerly open to them. When credit existed, large sums were bidden or demanded for estates which, in the last three or four years, have become almost valueless.

Estates worked by advances from England were a lottery, in which every one struggled to obtain a prize at the expense of his neighbour. Hence, labourers were seduced from one estate to another; higher wages were the result, which, in the end, have absorbed the resources of the employers. The labourers are enriched; the owner has been left penniless.

In the latter end of 1846, and beginning of 1847, unworthy, designing agitators influenced the minds of a large portion of the Creole population; the labourers would not work.

It would have been well for the colony if the diminution of wages which is now in progress had then taken place. The executive and paid magistrates, who were denounced as enemies to the Creoles, as supporters of the planters, in attempts at diminution, had taken no part. It was left to the employers and employed to settle the question of wages in the same manner as at present, and as it has ever been.

Had the diminution of wages taken place in 1847, rather than in 1848, many estates now jeopardized would, perhaps, have escaped; for the crops were large enough to have given profit, had expenses of labour not absorbed it. I consider it a great disadvantage to the progress of civilization that the Creoles, young and old, have hitherto been enabled to earn, by two or three days' labour of six or seven hours each per week, more than sufficient maintenance; they are thus induced to irregular habits; they shoot, fish, and lead a wandering life. Planters cannot regulate the work on their estates as farmers do in Europe; they are subject to the caprice of the negro; continuous labour cannot be had; the crops fail, while the liabilities increase; and there are not a few of the nominal possessors of property who are ground to the earth by the debts accumulated annually, from the enormous interest which the habits of West Indian dealings have introduced.

No change of system, no protection, no amount of immigration, will relieve the owners of estates who are involved to their principal owner with an interest rising from twenty to twenty-eight per cent.

* *Vide* annexed document; a few instances out of hundreds given as example how speculators were ground by the lenders of money. Enclosure No. 1.

Under the present rate of wages, and having no artificial means of improving the soil, no credit at home to obtain those means, the case of many of the present proprietors is hopeless.

The introduction of large numbers of emigrants, whose services are secured by indenture, will doubtless preserve possession of the least burthened estates to their owners. But a most rigid economy must be observed to make an ordinary estate profitable at the present prices of sugar. Economy is proposed, but it is defective. It is well known that although the outcry against outbidding in the labour market has been, and is, loud, yet competition still holds, to the great disadvantage of those planters whose credit is limited, and the weakest must then fall—their estates will be abandoned.

It has been affirmed that although many estates may be abandoned, yet those whose owners can resist the present crisis, will have the cultivation enlarged, will command more labour, and have better and larger crops; in the end, therefore, very little decrease will occur in the exports of the staple produce. With certain reservations, I think that the natural result of a diminished number of estates is, the employment of the hands turned away by other proprietors who have kept their estates.

Many estates have already been sold to the Creole labourers; the desire for land is not at all lessened; the experience of some years has made me alter my opinion as to the benefit the purchase of estates has been to the Creoles. I was, like other well-wishers to the descendants of the African race, glad to see the progress of independence; but I do not believe now that such purchases have tended to the civilization, advancement, or industry of the purchasers.

The estates have been indiscriminately cultivated in provisions; sublet, subsold, partitioned amongst gangs of new comers, the drainage neglected, and the evils of largely associated bodies, without managing heads, become manifest.

The continued gains of the negro are daily proved. Within the last six weeks the "Good Hope," on the east coast, Demerara, was bought by a very

limited number of labourers for fifty thousand dollars; and an abandoned cattle farm, named "Golden Grove," on the same coast, has been bought by a single labourer for five thousand dollars.

It becomes a matter of serious consideration to what these purchases will bring the colony. It is to be hoped that education will elevate the minds of the Creoles above being satisfied with the mere subsistence which the cultivation of provisions secures; the sea coasts and trenches swarm with fish, for which there is no market, nor desire for one; it is eaten by the villagers, is not a medium of traffic, and the ease with which life is thus supported contributes to the indifference of a large portion of the Creoles to aught but ease.

This, in older countries, may be a proper reward, in maturer years, for industry in early life. Men labour at their vocation in Europe, promising to themselves ease and enjoyment at the end of a certain number of years passed in toil.

The facility with which independence, sufficient for the subsistence of a race of men so lately released from coercion, is obtained, may almost be considered an evil. Pass but a few years and the original stock of labourers will be withdrawn from cultivation of exportable produce, by possession of independence; the exports will depend on emigrants.

It is true that several of the planters have encouraged the metayer system, and portions of estates have been leased to labourers on favourable terms, both to proprietor and farmer; the low prices of the last year have checked the extension of this system. Nor do I think a rent system could be successfully carried on at present. The cultivation of sugar requires a supervision of the fields to which the tenant would not be entitled, and to which he probably would object, as an infringement of rights. Attention to drainage would fail, and the tenancy would be sufferers as well as the proprietors. Neither system has the general voice of the planters. Nothing but great independence of manual labour, by subsoil drainage, the use of the plough and cattle, or a very large influx of hands, so that the wages may be reduced still more than they are, will bring about that increase of produce sufficient to compensate for the continuance of low prices, expected as the result of the introduction of foreign and slave-grown sugars in the home market. Neither planter here, nor proprietor at home, have the courage or the capital necessary for the use of the plough; the only hope now is, in the introduction of large bodies of Africans at a cheap rate.

Education.

2.

No. 2.—It appears to be the general opinion that education has not improved amongst the Creoles in proportion to their independent possession of property. The numbers attending schools, entered on the Blue Book, are fewer now than in 1838.

1848 8958.

1838, 11,580.

June quarter.

When we find that it has been difficult in the mother country to obtain proper teachers, we must not be surprised that their qualifications here are of a low grade. The last resort of a man who has failed in other attempts at earning his bread, is to become a schoolmaster.

The London Missionary Schools are vaunted by the ministers of that persuasion; they certainly are self-supporting.

Yet I see little improvement in the writing of the best of them; the petitions got up by the influence of the London Missionaries are as deficient in penmanship as formerly; the chief number of signatures is by cross, with their scholars as with those of other sects. I have had before me a petition to the Combined Court of this year, where the elders, signing after the minister, show miserable specimens of writing; the petitions I receive from labourers are generally marked with crosses, or, if signed, it is in the lowest grade of writing; if the petitions have the benefit of original writing, they present the most extraordinary jumble of bad orthography, grammar, penmanship, and composition that ever emanated from a human being, under the influence of education.

There is a radical defect, which the existence of so many creeds seems to uphold; there is aversion to inspection such as that contemplated by the newly appointed Inspector of Schools. This gentleman, whose presence here is officially notified to your Lordship in another Despatch, is to begin his visitation of all the schools receiving payment from the colony, and to report his views of their state and of the measures he would, after inspection, recommend to be adopted. I shall be glad if improvement can be suggested, coinciding with the systems of the various sects and churches of the colony.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The allowance of head money from the Colonial Treasury is not sufficient to pay good teachers; there is great difficulty in obtaining contributions from the parents; and so soon as the pupils have obtained some smattering of reading and writing, those parents who do contribute take their children from school to bind them to trade, or for the purpose of having their services at home.

The minister of the London Missionary Society of New Amsterdam states, in Blue Book, p. 122, that he has established a normal school without other help than that of voluntary contribution, and thinks it oppressive that his followers should help to pay for other educational establishments.

No voluntary system would be generally successful; nor do I call those payments voluntary which are said to be so by its advocates. It is unnecessary for me to give my reasons for this my opinion, but they might be strongly maintained.

It will ultimately be expedient to establish a tax for educational purposes, as suggested by your Lordship's Despatch.

In page 120, Blue Book, may be read that the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church reports "No Schools;" this is unfortunate, or highly reprehensible; there was a large flourishing school at Fort Island, with a curate resident, when the district was in the hands of the episcopalians.

In the interest of the scattered inhabitants of the islands and banks of the Essequibo, I desired to prevent the Church of Fort Island from falling into other hands than those of the Church of England. The way in which it was transferred to the Dutch Reformed Church is on record at the Colonial Office. In the present stage of my career in the administration of this Government, it would be useless for me to enter into a discussion which I could not bring to a conclusion. I draw your Lordship's attention to the fact, the duty of amending it must devolve on my successor.

The variety of sects in British Guiana does not contribute to the probable unity of a plan of education. The Church of England adheres to that of the National Society; the Presbyterians to their own; the Wesleyans their own; the London Missionaries, the Lancasterian, the Roman Catholics, that of the Irish Board, Strongites, Wesleyan Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Plymouth Brethren have to be considered. It will require a man of great judgment to gain, as inspector of schools, the approbation or confidence of all.

An attempt was made by the Presbyterian minister at New Amsterdam to unite labour with study; it failed, though begun with zeal, and expensively maintained.

The emancipated negro has been so flattered, and his vanity so excited, that he scarcely yet understands his position in society. In the efforts made to verify emancipation, humility has been forgotten.

A marked change in the respectful demeanour of the population during the early years of emancipation, particularly in the younger of the Creole race, is perceptible. I have even found it necessary within the last twelve months to keep a patrol of mounted police on the road usually frequented for rides and drives of exercise by the inhabitants of George Town, to check the jeering and impertinent remarks of the loungers in the neighbourhood of the town, which have often been levelled at myself.

The negroes are a docile credulous race; repeated agitation and exhortation for the last three or four years have made them look to individuals as supporters, rather than the Executive or the magistrates; the press circulated lies amongst them, and held up the Government Officers to their hate; the peace of the colony has, however, been rarely disturbed, though I believe had not the outbreak at Leguan, reported in Despatch No. 192, date 18th September, 1846, been so promptly and resolutely put down, it would not have been the only display of violence. The agitators found they could not trifle with the Executive, and changed their course of action to libel and invective.

The language of the Creole is not improved; it is still intelligible to those only who have been long used to it; a clipping of words running one into the other, defects which it will require another generation to remedy. At the last census of George Town, there were 1000 females more than males; the population has much increased, and doubtless the same proportion continues, yet it is difficult to obtain efficient service for ordinary house work amongst the class thus in the majority. Sewing is particularly taught in Episcopalian and other schools, yet women rather buy their dresses ready made, or apply to a dressmaker, than attempt to make them.

The filthy habits of the southern nations of Europe seem latterly to have gained ground here; for though the negro washes his person very carefully, yet it is very common to see people occupied in clearing each other's heads of vermin. I, however, confine myself to the lowest class in this my observation.

Crime.

No. 3. The Blue Book gives the total of prisoners, page 145, of the different gaols of British Guiana; but the cases brought before the police magistrate or the Inspector General of Police are useful additions.

Enclosures, Nos. 2 and 3.

There are now as many prisoners in George Town Gaol as there were in the early days of freedom of 1838, when the penal settlement did not exist; and now this establishment contains an equal number of prisoners, ranging from 100 to 160 and 170.

Enclosure No. 4.

The other gaols of the colony remain pretty nearly as they began, showing that crime resorts to the capital and its neighbourhood, east and west. Annexed is return of trials before Supreme Court of Criminal Justice.

Robberies of provision grounds and plantain walks swell the list of prisoners, and it is no uncommon thing to find the plunderer a man himself possessed of provision grounds and plantain walks. Cattle stealing has lately been common on the populous parts of the East Coast, Demerara. Pilfering is an inbred quality of the slave,—it has not yet been forgotten in the free man.

In George Town, petty thefts, indecent exposure of person, blaspheming, assaults, and quarrels, are the chief cases for the police magistrate. Higher crimes pass by the Inspector General of Police's Office to the High Sheriff, and thence to the superior tribunals.

The decrease of inmates of George Town Gaol, on which I had felicitated myself some six or seven months ago, and which then in number ranged from 60 to 100, have latterly increased as above expressed. It is the natural consequence of the late strike, and of the greater resort from the country districts of the idle and lazy. Many of the cases brought before the police magistrate (and all are submitted to my supervision) are of the most trifling sort. Even as low as three or four cents' worth of goods, and for the value of a small piece of fish, with money in his pocket, will the pilfering negro risk his liberty for six days in hard labour, and perhaps if recidive, of fine, the non-payment of which subjects him to ten days more imprisonment without hard labour.

Penal Settlement. Enclosures, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Burglaries have been latterly rare; the offenders, when such crimes have occurred, are sure to be discovered, convicted, and sent to the penal settlement. Details annexed.

Courts of Civil Justice, &c., *vide* Report of Acting Chief Justice. Enclosure No. 10, with Returns, (A), (B), (C), (D).

No. 4. The Acting Chief Justice has furnished me with proof of the continued successful working of the new laws.

The Abolition of the Roll Courts has so shortened pleadings, that almost every Court Session disposes of its own causes: at the last, all received judgment except seven, which stand over to the May Term, at the desire of one or both of the suitors.

A list of the causes settled in the February Session is annexed to Mr. Arrindell's Report, which I have the honour to transmit. Sixteen matters of account are to be considered, but most of them will be settled before the May Session; and the net proceeds of all insolvent estates, with the exception of 13, which of great or less magnitude require judgment, have been marshalled and distributed, while of these 13 all the preferences have been paid. Only one point in regard to the rules of practice has been contested, the Chief Justice and the first Puisne Judge holding different opinions, the second Puisne agreeing with the Chief Justice.

One Roll Suit of long standing still remains.

The auditors of accounts, occupied in commerce, complain of not being sufficiently paid for their labour. Some remedy may be required to perfect that mode of deciding matters of accounts, which was formerly left to a servant of the Supreme Court.

Nothing, however, diminishes the value of the great public benefit derived from the reform of the civil laws. I am fortunate in having been its promoter; it is equally fortunate that the persevering labours of Mr. Arrindell were devoted to it.

By the information I forward to your Lordship, suitors in Europe will know how their causes stand, and I hope will no longer complain of the ruinous delays of the law in British Guiana.

No. 5. Administrator General.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure, No. 11.

In respect to this office I forward herewith a letter from the Acting Chief Justice, analysing the return of "Boedels," "Estates," the proceeds of which have been awarded for three years previous to the institution of Administrator General, and of three years succeeding this institution.

The despatch of the present system is contrasted with that of the Orphan Chamber;—the accumulation of years from the latter had to be cleared by the Administrator General, and he is rapidly doing so. A memorandum by the Administrator General is annexed to the list of estates from the Registrar's Office, which shows the labours of the Administrator General.

The constant publicity to which the Administrator General is subject, is the best guarantee for continuation of correctness hereafter.

It will be satisfactory to me, if my Despatch be considered of use.

I have, &c,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

SCHEDULE OF ENCLOSURES.

No.		Page
1.	Charges by Mortgagees to Speculators	146
2.	Letter from Police Magistrate of Georgetown to the Government Secretary	147
	Cases adjudicated by the Police Magistrate from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1847	147
3.	Prisoners arrested in the three Counties of British Guiana from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1847	148
4.	Cases tried before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice during 1847	148
5.	Prisoners received, or who were released or died at the Penal Settlement, 1847	151
6.	Classification of Crimes or Offences for which Prisoners were sentenced to the Penal Settlement in 1847	151
7.	Rations supplied to Prisoners at the Penal Settlement	151
8.	Labour performed and Materials produced at the Penal Settlement in 1847	152
9.	Analysis of Expenditure on account of Penal Settlement, 1841 to 1847	152
10.	Letter from Acting Chief Justice Arrindell to Governor Light	152
	List of Causes set down for Trial at the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice, Session 7th Feb., 1848, and following days	153
	List of Cases postponed to Session 1st May, 1848	155
	List of Estates sold at Execution Sale	156
	Reports of Auditors of Accounts, waiting the Court's Orders thereon	157
11.	Letter from Acting Chief Justice Arrindell to Governor Light	157
	Number of Estates (Boedels) the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	158
	Ditto ditto for the three years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	159
	Number of Plantations sold at Execution Sale the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	159
	Ditto ditto for the three years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office	160
	Report to the Governor from the Administrator-General	160

Encl. 1 in No. 20.

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

CHARGES by MORTGAGEES to SPECULATORS.

[Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. allowed by law, and compound interest on all arrears. From the Registrar's office.]

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation DE WILLIAM, executed 10th June, 1829.

Covenants, besides freight, insurance duty, and all other usual charges, to charge the following commissions on account of the estate:—2½ per cent. on gross amount of sales of all produce; 1½ per cent. del credere thereon, for guaranteeing the solvency of the purchasers; ½ per cent. on the amount insured; a commission of 2½ per cent. on the amount recovered from the underwriters; 2½ per cent. on invoices of supplies, or goods shipped; a commission for accepting and paying bills, or making other payments; ½ per cent. if paid in Glasgow or Liverpool, and of 1 per cent. if in London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation LE RESOUVENIR, executed on 1st July, 1829.

Covenants, besides freight, insurance duty, and all other usual charges, to charge the following commissions on account of the estate; 2½ per cent. on gross amount of sales of all produce; 1½ per cent. del credere thereon, for guaranteeing the solvency of the purchasers; ½ per cent. on the amount insured; a commission of 2½ per cent. on the amount recovered from the underwriters; 2½ per cent. on invoices of supplies, or goods shipped; a commission for accepting and paying bills or making other payments; ½ per cent. if paid in Glasgow or Liverpool, and of 1 per cent. if in London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation WINDSOR CASTLE, executed on the 22nd July, 1829.

Covenants, to deduct from the net proceeds of sales the following charges in addition to their actual disbursements for insurance, freight, duty, dock rates, brokerage, &c. For effecting sales of produce, a commission of 2½ per cent. on amount of sales; for guaranteeing sales, 1 per cent. on the amount; for effecting insurances, ½ per cent.; 2½ per cent. commission on the amount of all losses, when recovered; and a commission of ½ per cent. on all monies paid or received, and to make all other charges usual and customary at the port of London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation AMERSFORT, executed on the 22nd July, 1829.

Covenants, to deduct from net proceeds of such sales the following charges, in addition to their actual disbursements for insurance, freight, duty, dock rates, brokerage, &c. For effecting sales of produce, a commission of 2½ per cent. on amount of sugar sold; for guaranteeing sales, 1 per cent. on the amount; for effecting insurances, ½ per cent.; 2½ per cent. commission on the amount of all losses, when recovered; and a commission of ½ per cent. on all monies paid or received, and to make all other charges usual and customary at the port of London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation MALGRE-TOUT, executed on 25th July, 1829.

Covenants, 2½ per cent. on sales of produce; 1 per cent. for guaranteeing sales; ½ per cent. for effecting insurance; 2½ per cent. paying and receiving all monies; and further to make all other charges usual and customary at the port of London.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantations FELICITY and MONTROSE, executed on the 11th April, 1843.

Covenants, a commission of ½ per cent. on amount of insurance; to charge freight at the rate of 4*s.* per cwt.; a commission of 2½ per cent. on the gross amount of sales; and also a commission of 1½ per cent. on the same for guaranteeing the amount; and the usual charges as customary at the port of Glasgow; also, on supplies shipped, interest and customary commission of ½ per cent. on payments.

MORTGAGE vested on Plantation GREENFIELD, executed on the 8th March, 1841.

Covenants, freight of 4*s.* per cwt. net weight at the Queen's beam; a commission of 2½ per cent. for effecting sales; a commission of 1½ per cent. for guaranteeing the debts of said sales; a commission of ½ per cent. for effecting insurance; and all other charges usually charged on such shipments by the mortgagees.

Enclosure 2 in No. 20.

COPY of a LETTER from the POLICE MAGISTRATE of Georgetown to the GOVERNMENT SECRETARY.

Georgetown Police Office,
May 1, 1848.

SIR,

In compliance with the order of his Excellency the Governor, I have the honour to annex a return of the cases tried by me in the year 1847, with the number of the acquittals, convictions, and re-commitments during that period.

On comparing this with the corresponding return for 1846, I find an increase of convictions in last year to the amount of 175. Of these, however, 164 are re-committals of old offenders, thus leaving an excess of only 11 new convictions over those of the preceding year.

When the great access to our colonial population during that time is taken into consideration (and the refuse thereof, as usual, poured *quasi in sentinam* into the city), it will, no doubt, be a source of great gratification to his Excellency to find that numbers have not imported crime to any extent, but that, on the contrary, the calendar of offences is swelled up by the old delinquents, who are to be found, in a similar manner, in every large city in Great Britain, as well as in this colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM M'NULTY, LL.D.,
Police Magistrate of Georgetown.

The Honourable William Walker,
Government Secretary, British Guiana.

GEORGETOWN POLICE OFFICE.

CASES adjudicated by the POLICE MAGISTRATE of GEORGE TOWN, from January 1 to December 31, 1847.

Number of Prisoners.		Acquitted.		Condemned.		Re-committed.	
January	228	January	95	January	133	January	3
February	257	February	107	February	150	February	6
March	274	March	92	March	182	March	5
April	231	April	89	April	142	April	4
May	224	May	93	May	131	May	11
June	243	June	104	June	139	June	7
July	224	July	114	July	110	July	10
August	202	August	119	August	83	August	32
September	221	September	134	September	87	September	25
October	213	October	106	October	107	October	25
November	172	November	107	November	65	November	18
December	212	December	95	December	117	December	18
	2701		1255		1446		164

Encl. 3 in No. 20.

Enclosure 3 in No. 20.

RECAPITULATION of PRISONERS arrested in the three Counties of BRITISH GUIANA, from 1st January to 31st December, 1847. Showing the number of Committals, those handed over for Trial, and those locked up for a night, and discharged after interrogation.

County.	Period.		Year.	Number of Prisoners arrested.	Number of Prisoners committed.	Handed over for Trial.	Locked up for a Night, and discharged after being interrogated.
	From.	To					
Demerara . .	1 January	31 December	1847	7,629	2,213	1,116	4,300
Berbice . . .	,,	,,	,,	927	216	491	220
Essequibo . .	,,	,,	,,	490	..	316	174
Total three Counties . . .				9,046	2,429	1,923	4,694

A true Extract from Books of Record.

In absence of Inspector-General gone to Berbice. } THOMAS HORNE, Inspector Police.

Enclosure 4 in No. 20.

RETURN of CASES tried before the Supreme Court of CRIMINAL JUSTICE in and for the Counties of DEMERARA and ESSEQUIBO during the Year 1847.

Names.	Offence.	Date of Trial.	Verdict.	Sentence.	Remarks.
Henry Phillips . . .	Assault and shooting .	26 Jan.	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment.	
Allan Cummins, Buchanan M'Hardy *alias* Duncan Buchanan, and Thomas Poole.	Theft	2 Feb.	Not guilty.		
Industry Joseph *alias* Industry Mercurius.	Burglary and theft .	27 Jan.	Guilty . .	Five years' imprisonment, with hard labour.	
Jack Thomas *alias* Alexander Hoola.	Manslaughter . . .	29 Jan.	Guilty . .	Twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.	
Thomas Austin . . .	Rape	3 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for ten years, with hard labour.	
Samuel Fraser, William Drake *alias* Stephen Drake *alias* Stephen Henry, George Walk, and Joe Mattis.	Burglary and theft .	1 Feb.	Not guilty .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered against Joe Mattis.
John Bell	Assault and battery .	5 Feb.	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment.	
John Bell	Assault and battery .	6 Feb.	Not guilty .		
James Austin, Peter Rainey. Peter Waldren, John William Haynes, and Thomas Skeete . . .	Burglary and theft .	28 Jan.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for five years, with hard labour.	
	. . . .	. .	Not guilty.		
William Johnston . . .	Burglary and theft .	28 Jan.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years, with hard labour.	
James Paris	Assault and wounding.	4 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years, with hard labour.	
James Paris	Assault and wounding.	4 Feb.	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, to commence on the expiration of the sentence of two years' imprisonment pronounced against him this day.	
Alexander Crump . . .	Theft	8 Feb.	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Alexander Crump . . .	Theft	8 Feb.	Guilty . .	Twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.	
Tom Gravesande and King Abraham.	Burglary	13 Feb.	Guilty . .	Seven days' imprisonment, with hard labour.	The Attorney-General intimated that King Abraham had died in gaol since the indictment was served.
Tom Adam and Brutus Harry.	Assault and battery .	9 Feb.	Guilty . .	Tom Adam, three months' imprisonment, with hard labour. Brutus Harry, six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.	
Beesoo, afterwards altered to Bauseer.	Murder	10 Feb.	Guilty . .	Death	To be executed on 20th March, 1847; August 26th Sentence commuted to Transportation for life.
Sam Trim	Theft	13 Feb.	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Benjamin Cozier . . .	Burglary and theft .	4 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years, with hard labour.	
Warren Abraham and James Bull.	Robbery	2 Feb.	Not guilty.		

Return of Cases tried before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice in and for the Counties of Demerara and Essequibo during the Year 1847—*continued.*

Names.	Offence.	Date of Trial.	Verdict.	Sentence.	Remarks.
Bristol Cambridge . .	Theft	13 Feb.	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Edwin Angel Wallbridge .	Libel	13 Feb.	. .	. . . .	Trial postponed. June 30th, Nolle prosequi entered.
Stephen Drake, otherwise called Stephen Henry.	Larceny	20 April	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three years, with hard labour.	
Trial Nile	Assault, cutting and wounding.	21 April	Guilty . .	Imprisonment of seven years, with hard labour.	
January Hamilton, Polly Hamilton, and Moses Hendricks . .	Highway robbery . .	22 April	Guilty . .	January Hamilton, imprisonment for three years, with hard labour. Polly Hamilton, imprisonment for seven days.	April 23rd. In consequence of error in Proceedings, the Attorney-General entered a Nolle prosequi as against Polly Hamilton.
	. . .	. .	Not guilty.		
Sam Moore	Rape	23 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for life.	
Ned Brandes	Burglary and larceny .	24 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for ten years.	
Quassie John	Burglary and larceny	27 April	Guilty . .	Twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.	
Toby Stevenson . . .	Breaking into shop and larceny.	28 April	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three years, with hard labour.	
Thomas Koker	Stealing from the person	28 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for ten years.	
Sam Henry, otherwise called Cuffy Chance.	Larceny	29 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
Samuel Welch	Larceny	29 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
John Carter, otherwise called John Thomas.	Assault with intent to ravish.	20 April	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for twelve months, with hard labour.	
Corrydon Liverpool . .	Assault and shooting with intent to murder.	20 April	Not guilty.		
John Thomas, otherwise called John Carter, otherwise called Charles Evans.	Assault and cutting and wounding policeman in execution of his duty.	21 April	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three months, with hard labour; such sentence to commence at the expiry of the period for which he is now imprisoned.	
Manoel Rodrigues Marques and Antonio Dos Reis.	Murder	26 April	Guilty . .	Manoel Rodrigues Marques, transportation for fifteen years. Antonio Dos Reis, transportation for seven years.	
Mandearallie	Murder	30 April	. .	. . . .	Trial postponed. June 30th, Nolle prosequi entered.
Thomas New Year . .	Murder	23 April	Guilty of manslaughter.	Transportation for ten years.	
Adam Quinless, otherwise called Adam Quintess.	Rape	24 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for life.	
Roger Pier	Stabbing, cutting, &c., with intent to maim.	24 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for fifteen years.	
Mary Isles	Cutting, &c., with intent to do some grievous bodily harm.	24 April	Guilty of an assault.	Imprisonment for six months, one month of which to be kept in solitary confinement.	
Sylvester Jack, otherwise called Sylvius Jack, and Isaac Fortune.	Burglary and larceny .	28 April	Not guilty .	. . . .	Isaac Fortune could not be found.
Warren Abraham and Thomas Poole.	Burglary and larceny .	27 April	Guilty . .	Warren Abraham, transportation for seven years. Thomas Poole, transportation for seven years.	
George Sealey	House-breaking and larceny.	27 April	. .	. . . .	Trial postponed till next session. July 19th. Nolle prosequi entered.
Castello Crispin, and George William . . .	Stealing from the person	28 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for ten years.	
	. . .	. .	Not guilty.		
George Sealey	Obtaining money by false pretences.	27 April	. .	. . . .	Trial postponed till next session. July 19th. Nolle prosequi entered.
Adam Quinless, otherwise called Adam Quintess.	Rape on a girl under 12 and above 10 years.	27 April	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Mary Macauley . . .	Felonious Homicide, manslaughter.	29 April	Not guilty.		
Ramasawmy	Sheep stealing . . .	29 April	Guilty . .	Six months' imprisonment with hard labour.	
Gardner Abel	Burglary and larceny .	29 April	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
John Day	Robbery.	21 July	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Joachim Isaac	Robbery.	21 July	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Phillip Hendy	Manslaughter . . .	24 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for six months.	
Quamina Alexander . .	Rape	20 July	Guilty of an assault.	Imprisonment for three years with hard labour.	
Simon Neptune . . .	Rape	21 July	Guilty . .	Transportation for ten years.	
Mandearallie	Murder	27 July 1848, 31 Jan.	. . Not guilty.	. . . .	Postponed till ext session. Nov. 16. Postponed till next session.
Maria de Jesus	Infanticide	15 Nov.	Not guilty.		
Lucas Midas, Joseph Dunbar, and Joe Matis.	Highway robbery . .	22 July	Guilty . .	Joseph Dunbar and Joe Matis, each transportation for 15 years. Lucas Midas, imprisonment for three years, with hard labour.	
James Richard Edwards .	Manslaughter . . .	23 July	Not guilty.		
George Sealey	Housebreaking and larceny.	24 July	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.

Return of Cases tried before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice in and for the Counties of Demerara and Essequibo during the Year 1847—*continued.*

Names.	Offence.	Date of Trial.	Verdict.	Sentence.	Remarks.
George Sealey	Obtaining money by false pretences.	23 July	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
Stephen Drake, otherwise called Stephen Henry.	Breach of prison . .	20 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for five years with hard labour, to commence on the termination of the sentence, under which he is now imprisoned.	
Stephen Drake, otherwise called Stephen Henry.	Cutting and wounding.	20 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three years with hard labour, to commence on the expiration of the sentence pronounced against the prisoner this day.	
Edward Grant Blacket and Thomas Simpson Pile.	Burglary and larceny .	24 July	Not guilty.		
John Herbert, otherwise called John James Herbert.	Burglary and larceny .	22 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years with hard labour.	
John Bovel	Assault and wounding .	21 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years with hard labour.	
Allick Foray . . . . and Pitt Dover	Burglary and larceny . . .	19 July 21 July	. . Guilty . .	. . . . . Imprisonment for two years with hard labour.	Nolle prosequi entered against Allick Foray.
Stephen Louis	Burglary with intent .	21 July	Not guilty.		
Cupido Heyliger . . .	Burglary and theft. .	21 July	Guilty . .	Transportation for seven years.	
Francisco de Menezes . .	Cutting and wounding.	24 July	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for six months.	
Francisco de Menezes . .	Assault	26 July	. .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Quammy Thomson . .	Murder	11 Nov.	Guilty . .	Death	To be executed on 11th December, 1847. 1848, April 28th, sentence commuted to imprisonment, with hard labour for fifteen years, from 16th March, 1848.
Julio Antonio	Manslaughter . . .	9 Nov.	Not guilty.		
Dickey, otherwise called Richard Appio.	Manslaughter . . .	9 Nov.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for three months.	
Phœnix Alert, otherwise called Quaco Phœnix.	Rape	9 Nov.	. .	. . . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Sam John, otherwise called Mucko Sam.	Rape	9 Nov.	Guilty of assault.	Imprisonment for three years with hard labour.	
John Tull	Assault and wounding.	9 Nov.	Guilty . .	Transportation for fifteen years.	
Corrydon Liverpool . .	Robbery.	10 Nov.	Guilty . .	Transportation for ten years.	
Quaco, otherwise called Joseph Schoemaker.	Robbery.	10 Nov.	Not guilty.		
John Chester, otherwise called John Chichester.	Robbery	10 Nov.	Guilty of assault.	Imprisonment for three years, with hard labour.	
Idem	Robbery.	11 Nov.	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.
Smith John	Burglary and theft. .	10 Nov. 1848, 27 Jan.	. . Guilty . .	. . . . .	Postponed till next session. Imprisonment for two years, with hard labour.
Profit Adonis and Samuel Middleburgh.	Burglary	10 Nov.	. .	. . . .	Nolle presequi entered.
Apow, otherwise called Appow.	Sheep stealing . . .	10 Nov.	. .	. . . .	Struck off the list, the prisoner having died on 23rd October, 1847.
Sam Trim, otherwise called Sam Stephen, otherwise called John William.	Larceny	12 Nov.	Not guilty.		
Austin Prince	Assault and battery .	12 Nov.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for two years, with hard labour.	
Cæsar Julius, otherwise called Cæsar Smith, and	Conspiracy	12 Nov.	. .	. . . .	Trial postponed till next session, 1848. February 4th, Cæsar Julius died in gaol.
Booker York, otherwise called Blucher York.	. .	1848 2 Feb.	Guilty . .	Imprisonment for five years, hard labour.	
Andries Boatswain and Tyson Boatswain Davison.	Forgery	10 Nov.	. .	. . . .	Nolle prosequi entered.

May 4, 1848.

W. H. CAMPBELL, Clerk of Court.

Enclosure 5 in No. 20.

Encl. 5 in No. 20.

(A.)—RETURN showing the NUMBER of PRISONERS received, or who were released or died at the PENAL SETTLEMENT, 1847.

Months.	Received.	Released.	Died.	Drowned.
January .	24	21	..	..
February .	24	14	..	..
March . .	9	19	..	1
April . .	12	22	..	..
May . .	33	15	..	..
June . .	3	6	..	..
July . .	16	29	1	..
August . .	16	12	..	..
September .	16	5	..	..
October .	6	13	..	..
November .	19	20	1	..
December .	9	12	1	..
Total .	187	188	3	1

Remaining from last year . .	156
Received in 1847 . . .	187
	343
Released, died, &c. . . .	192
Remaining 31st December, 1847	151

(Signed) W. CRICHTON, Superintendent.

Enclosure 6 in No. 20.

Encl. 6 in No. 20.

(B.)—RETURN showing the Classification of Crimes and Offences for which Prisoners were sentenced to the Penal Settlement in 1847.

Months.]	Murder.	Rape.	Theft.	Robbery.	Riot.	Cutting.	Assault.	Fraud.	Burglary and Theft.	Manslaughter.	Assault and Wounding.	Assault and Battery.	Receiving.	Assault, Cutting and Wounding.	Highway Robbery.	Stabbing and Cutting, with intent to Murder.	Burglary and Larceny.	Larceny.	Abusive Language and Escaping,	Military.	Totals.
January .	..	..	2	8	10	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
February .	..	1	9	..	..	..	2	..	7	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
March .	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
April . .	..	..	10	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
May . .	3	2	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	5	3	..	1	33
June . .	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
July . .	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	16
August .	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	2	16
September	1	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	16
October .	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
November	..	1	11	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	19
December	..	..	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	9
Totals .	4	5	98	10	10	1	17	2	8	1	3	3	1	2	4	1	7	4	1	5	187

(Signed) W. CRICHTON, Superintendent.

Enclosure 7 in No. 20.

Encl. 7 in No. 20.

(C.)—PENAL SETTLEMENT.

RATIONS.—1. Plantains 16 to 20, according to size, weight full 3 lbs., and salt-fish 8 oz.
2. Rice boiled and pressed, 6 lbs., and salt-fish 8 oz.
3. Cassada bread 2 lbs., and salt-fish 8 oz.
4. Yams and potatoes 4 lbs. 4 oz., and salt-fish 8 oz.

N.B.—A salt pork or salt beef ration of 6 oz. is issued twice every month, once in the day.

CULTIVATION.—Bread fruit trees 17 acres.

Yams 16 acres (failed).
Potatoes 4 acres.
Cassada 4 acres ripe, 8 acres, nearly ditto } 12 acres.
Plantains 14 acres.

NEW WING.—Cells 94, length 9 feet, breadth 4 feet 4 inches, height 12 feet.

(Signed) W. CRICHTON,
Superintendent.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 8 in No. 20.

Encl. 8 in No. 20.

(D.)—RETURN and Valuation of the Labour performed and Materials produced at the Penal Settlement in 1847.

		Dols.	Cents.
8,722	Feet, 2½ in. Green Heart Plank	1,744	40
46,833	,, 2 ,, ,,	6,066	73
12,190	,, 1½ ,, ,,	1,340	90
3,012	,, 3 ,, ,,	632	52
3,500	,, G. H. Lathing	140	0
3,300	Wallaba Paling Staves	132	0
3,319	Pr. Hubaballi 1 in. boards	165	95
46	Tacuba Posts	15	33
587	G. H. Slabs	358	0
	A lot of refuse slabs	29	0
26	G. H. Beams 518 feet, at an average of 60 cents per foot	310	67
1,000	Ft. Crabwood Boards, 1 in	60	80
204	Ft. 2¼ in. do. Plank	20	40
	Stone delivered	0	0
520	Tons whole Stone	693	34
208	,, broken Stone	416	0
	Labour and Provisions expended on the Lazaretto	653	9
	Labour and Materials in erecting seven Beacons for Pilot Office	102	0
	Labour expended on the Lands of Kalikoo in clearing a site for a proposed Military Post	80	0
	Total	12,961	13

Labour expended on the new stone prison now in progress of erection, viz.:—

1. In removing 17,800 cubic feet of earth and other hard substance, to obtain a solid foundation for the fabric.

2. In building upwards of 11,000 feet of masonry. The whole wing it is calculated, when completed, will contain nearly 40,000 cubic feet of masonry.

3. In hauling out of the bush, cutting and sawing the materials, making the shingles, and erecting, on cut stone pillars, a togie covering 6000 square feet. The upper part to be converted into a joiner's shop, the lower to receive timber, &c.

4. In the various agricultural operations specified under the head of cultivation in the Return marked C.

(Signed) W. CRICHTON,
Superintendent.

Enclosure 9 in No. 20.

Encl. 9 in No. 20.

(E.)—ANALYSIS of the Expenditure on account of the Penal Settlement, 1841 to 1847 inclusive.

Disbursements.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	Totals.
	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.	Dol. Cts.
Salaries'	1,877 76	7,690 47	12,170 70	11,244 20	11,199 72	11,324 0	11,993 75	67,500 60
Wages of Artificers	3,958 7	6,825 27	..	720 75	576 38	*	797 0	12,877 47
Vessel Hire, Freight, &c.	1,512 94	1,729 71	6,912 25	1,687 50	381 45	403 15	803 80	13,430 80
Materials, Provisions, &c.	5,804 22	13,034 21	6,349 25	10,137 55	8,611 65	13,844 75	5,980 40	63,762 3
Purchase of Vessels, Boats, &c.	144 0	125 0	1,512 35	203 25	..	1,746 20	..	3,730 80
Medicines, &c.	34 36	314 27	299 10	125 60	274 70	290 20	302 75	1,640 98
Tools	268 33	156 90	444 0	51 0	89 20	257 35	347 0	1,613 78
House Frames	3,570 0	..	300 0	..	..	..	..	3,870 0
Sundries	186 50	240 82	79 70	163 70	91 55	65 65	161 20	989 12
Totals	17,356 18	30,116 65	28,067 35	24,333 55	21,224 65	27,931 30	20,385 90	169,415 58

* Included for this year in the Salaries.

Encl. 10 in No. 20.

Enclosure 10 in No. 20.

COPY of a LETTER from Acting Chief Justice ARRINDELL to Governor LIGHT.

SIR,

British Guiana, 14th April, 1848.

THE last session of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice having been closed on Monday the 10th instant, it affords me great pleasure to report to your Excellency as follows:—

Documents (A) and (B.)

1st. All the suits ripe for hearing, and placed on the February list, have been heard and determined, with the exception of seven, each of which was postponed to the next session of the Court, to be held in May, either at the request of both parties, or at the request of one of the parties and the consent of the other.

2ndly. The net proceeds of all insolvent estates lately in the Registry of Court have been marshalled and distributed, with the exception of 13; the preferences in these have been awarded, and the sums awarded paid out, and the causes preventing the disposal of the remaining funds of these estates, as contained in the column of remarks in the schedule annexed, are beyond the control of the Court. Document (C.)

3rdly. There are only 16 matters of account to be considered and disposed of. From the insolvency of the parties, and the re-sales of the Plantations Vrouw Anna, and Malgré Tout, with the net proceeds of which the first five of these accounts are connected; and from the nature of the remaining 11, any delay in disposing of them, unless such delay should be very prolonged, is unimportant, and between this and the 1st of May one or other of the puisne judges and myself will examine these accounts, so that orders may be granted upon them when the court next meets. Document (D.)

4thly. Since the presidency and chief justiceship of the late Mr. Wray, the business of the Court has never been in so satisfactory a state; and although in his time the suits for pleading were once all cleared off, even then there remained a great accumulation of business at the Roll Courts, which is not now the case.

5thly. The session of the Court in Berbice was closed in March last, the whole of the business being disposed of, with the exception of two suits, one of which was postponed to enable the assignee of an insolvent to intervene, and take over the proceedings, and the other at the request of the parties to the suit.

6thly. Since Ordinance No. 5 of the year 1846, containing the rules of practice, has come into operation, there has been only one contested point of practice, and in that case the Court was divided, the chief justice and the first puisne judge holding different opinions, and the second puisne judge agreeing with the chief justice.

In conclusion, I cannot avoid tendering to your Excellency, as I hereby do, my sincere congratulations, not only upon your having been the originator of the reforms in the civil law which have led to the above happy results, but on your having had the opportunity of yourself witnessing these results.

I have, &c.,

To his Excellency Governor Light,
British Guiana.

(Signed) WILLIAM ARRINDELL,
Acting Chief Justice.

(A.)

LIST of CAUSES set down for TRIAL at the SUPREME COURT of CIVIL JUSTICE of BRITISH GUIANA, at its Session appointed to be held in the City of Georgetown, on Monday the 7th February, 1848, and following Days.

Cause postponed from List of 3rd May, 1847.

No.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.	Days of Trial.	Date of Sentence
1	Harrison.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Austin.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	7th February and following days.	

Causes postponed from List of 28th June, 1847.

2	Bilstein.—(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Executors Bilstein, deceased.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	7th February and following days.	
3	Executors Kirkwood, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cameron, sen., and another.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-law.)	Ditto.	

Causes postponed from List of 22nd November, 1847.

4	Executors Kirkwood, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cameron, sen.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	8th February and following days.	
5	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cameron and others.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
6	Wishart.	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at Law.)	Ditto.	
7	Fogelmark, Curator, *ad litem* S. E. Cowan (*pro Deo*). *Ex parte*.—(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Cowan	Ditto.	

New Causes..

No.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.	Days of Trial.	Date of Sentence
8	Imlach.	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	9th February and following days.	
9	Houel, by his Attorney, A. Vyfhuis.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-law.)	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, as Curator to Insolvent Estate of Boode, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
10	Trustees and Executors of Harrower, deceased, by their Attorney, James Forbes.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Jacobs.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
11	W. and B. Hick.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Barry.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	9th February and following days.	
12	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alexander. — (Imlach, Attorney-at Law.)	10th February and following days.	
13	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem —(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
14	Glen.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Wishart	Ditto.	
15	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alexander. — (Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
16	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney at-Law.)	Wishart	11th February and following days.	
17	Idem.—Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alexander. — (Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
18	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, representing Estate of C. Young, jun., deceased. — (Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Executrix of C. Young, senior, deceased.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
19	Idem, representing Estate of Jones, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
20	Gibson	Executors Affleck, deceased. — (Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	12th February and following days.	
21	Robert M'Murray and Co.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Winter and Preston.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	12th February and following days.	
22	Idem.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
23	Executors M'Turk, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	T. D. and A. Douglas, by their Attorney, James Stuart.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
24	Albony, by his Attorneys James Stuart and Alex. Macrae.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Goring.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	14th February and following days.	
25	Lanfferman.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Executor of J. J. Deeges, deceased — (Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
26	Wilson.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Blake.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
27	Conway.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Proprietors of Plantation Land of Plenty.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
28	Briggs.—(Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Oudkerk.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	15th February and following days.	
29	O'Donoghue. — (Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Dare.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
30	Idem.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
31	Glen, and as Executor of A. Glen, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Alex. Wishart and Co.	Ditto	
32	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, representing Estate of Wm. Moore, deceased.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Moore.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	16th February and following days.	

New Causes.—continued.

No.	Plaintiff.	Defendant.	Days of Trial.	Date of Sentence
33	S. M. Gilgeous and another, by their Attorney, Wm. Lyng.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Proprietors of Plantation, Better Success.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
34	Cornfoot and Elmslie, by their Attorney, H. S. Bascome.	Macintosh, Cameron, and Co.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
35	Executrix, C. Young, sen., deceased.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Jacobs.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
36	Blair and Manget	Idem.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	17th February and following days	
37	De Jonge.—(Van Sirtema, Attorney-at-Law.)	Leue.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
38	Simson.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Veitch.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
39	Elliot and Son, by their Attorney, H. Clementson.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Collymore and Forte.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
40	Grant, by his Attorneys, A. Duff and H. Watson —(Watson, Attorney-at-Law.)	Forbes.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	18th February and following days.	
41	Administrator-General, representing Estate of M'Cormick, deceased.—(Campbell, Attorney-at-Law.)	Jones.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
42	Allen, Brothers, and Co.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Austin.—(Beete, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
43	Acting Attorney-General.—(Imlach, Attorney-at-Law.)	Manuel Fereia.—(Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	
44	Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, representing Estate of G. E. Fraskini, and A. M. C. E. Fraskini, deceased.—(Forbes, Attorney-at-Law.)	Reed.—(Pollard, Attorney-at-Law.)	Ditto.	

(B.)

LIST of CAUSES set down for Trial at the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of BRITISH GUIANA, at its Session appointed to be held in the City of GEORGETOWN, on the 7th day of February, 1848, and postponed to the Session appointed to commence on the 1st day of May, 1848.

No. 1.
William Harrison . . . v. Hugh William Austin.
(Van Sirtema.) (Forbes.)

No. 2.
Exors. Jas. Kirkwood, deceased . v. D. C. Cameron, proprietor Caulfield and Lochaber.
(Campbell.) (Forbes.)

No. 3.
Jacob Isaac De Fonge . . v. Frederick William Leue.
(Van Sirtema.) (Campbell.)

No. 4.
Colin Simson . . . v. H. G. Veitch.
(Campbell.) (Forbes.)

No. 5.
R. R. Craig, Acting Attorney-General v. Manuel Fereia.
(Imlach.) (Pollard.)

No. 6.
Administrator General of Demerara and Essequibo, representing Estate of G. F. Fraskini and A. M. C. E. Fraskini, deceased. v. John Reed.
(Forbes.) (Pollard.)

(Signed) A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

Demerara, April 14, 1848.

BRITISH GUIANA.

ROLL SUIT closed on the Registrar's List for the 7th February, 1848, and following Days.

Gavin Fullarton, representing late firm of Fullarton and M'Donald, *v.* Administrator-General, representing Estate of Moses Jacobs, deceased.

Demerara, 14th April, 1848. (Signed) A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(C.)

LIST of ESTATES sold at Execution Sale, on the Net Proceeds, of which no Sentence of Judicium Preferentiæ et Concurrentiæ has been held by the Court.

Name of Estate.	Date of Sale.	Amount.	Remarks.
		Dollars.	
Hoff Van Holland . . .	10th June, 1836	44,000	In appeal. A dividend of 70 per cent. paid out to the preferent creditors by order of Court of 19th February, 1838, amounting to $9937.
Vrouw Anna	24th November, 1838.	145,000	Deficiency on original purchase not yet paid. Amount deposited by the sequestrators awarded to the preferent claimants by order of Court of 8th April, 1848, amounting to $69,368 17c.
	Resold 23rd March, 1847.	5,000	
Le Desir . } The Property of Thomas Browne. { . . .	10th February, 1841.	9,000	Deficiency on original purchase not yet paid. A dividend awarded to the preferent claimants by order of Court of 8th April 1848, amounting to $599 84c. Property of one of the securities has been attached for the deficiency on original purchase, and appeal therefrom still pending.
	Resold 8th March, 1843.	1,260	
Sans Souci. }	9th June, 1841	3,030	Preferent creditors awarded the amount of their claims in full by order of Court of 8th April, 1848, amounting to $394 47c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. awaiting the decision of appeal in Le Desir.
Ostend . . }	12th October, 1842.	635	Balance of assets awarded in part of preferent claim by order of Court of 8th April, 1848, amounting to $42 41c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. awaiting the decision of appeal in Le Desir.
Peter's Hall	7th May, 1841	113,000	In debate. Deficiency on original purchase not yet paid. A dividend of 75 per cent. paid out to the preferent claimants by order of Court of 8th January, 1848, amounting to $15,788 55c.
	Resold 3rd November, 1847.	26,500	
Half Met-en-Meer Zorg .	19th January, 1843.	48,050	In debate.
Sophia	9th May, 1843	12,100	In debate. Preferent claimants (not in debate) paid in full by order of Court of 12th January, 1848, amounting to $407 99c.
Malgré Tout	4thOctober,1843	114,000	In debate. Advertised to be resold.
Best Phœnix and Walter's Delight.	21st November, 1843.	41,000	Title deed of property sold, being in dispute.
Vauxhall and Westminster.	2nd November, 1846.	5,000	Preferent claimants paid in full by order of Court of 24th February, 1847, amounting to $445 11c. Sequestrators paid in full by order of Court of 13th December, 1847, amounting to $2930 42c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. in course of preparation.
Vryheid's Lust and Sheet Anchor.	21st December, 1846.	32,500	Dividend of 50 per cent. paid out to preferent claimants by order of Court of 14th June, 1847, amounting to $4603 92c. Sequestrators paid in full by order of Court of 13th December, 1847, amounting to $12,811 77c. Sentence of Præ. et Con. in course of preparation.
La Bonne Intention . .	26th January, 1848.	30,200	Statement to be prepared for the Court from 19th April to 18th May, 1848. First instalment of purchase-money not yet due.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

Colonial Registrar's Office, Demerara, 12th April, 1848.

(D.)

REPORTS of AUDITORS of ACCOUNTS waiting the Court's orders thereon.

Debates:—

No. 43. Hans Blackwood Hamilton . . . . } Plaintiff and Debattant.
versus
W. R. Boeddart and others . . . . } Defendants and Debattees.

No. 44. Hans Blackwood Hamilton . . . . } Plaintiff and Debattant.
versus
R. A. Deperpigna . . . . . } Defendant and Debattee.

No. 45. W. L. Hamilton and Co. . . . . } Plaintiff and Debattants.
versus
R. A. Deperpigna . . . . . } Defendant and Debattee.

No. 46. W. S. Hamilton and Co. . . . . } Plaintiff and Debattants.
versus
W. R. Boeddart and others . . . . } Defendant and Debattees.

No. 47. S. H. Goodman . . . . . } Respondent.
versus
John Campbell, Senior, and Co. . . . } Appellants.

Administrator-General Demerara and Essequibo, representing estate of Dr. John Waddell, deceased

versus

The Heirs of Waterton, deceased.

No. 6. On accounts of A. Pearson, guardian of the minor, J. C. Thierens.
7. Ditto of the sequestrators of plantation La Bonne Intention.
8. Ditto of Ad.-General of Demerara and Essequibo, guardian of the minor Imes.
10. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor Grant.
11. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor J. R. Timmerman.
12. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor J. Timmerman.
13. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minors Collymen.
14. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minors Marlton.
15. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardian of the minor M. Timmerman.
16. Ditto of ditto of ditto, guardians of the minors Dagg.
17. Ditto of the executors of George Johnston, deceased, and the guardians of the minor Elizabeth Johnston.

Demerara, 14th April, 1848. (Signed) A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

Enclosure 11 in No. 20. Encl. 11 in No. 20.

COPY of a LETTER from Acting Chief Justice ARRINDELL to Governor LIGHT.

SIR, Guiana Public Buildings, May 2, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Excellency the following documents:—

(A.)—Return of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice in and for the counties of Demerara and Essequibo, showing the number of estates (boedels), the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in these counties.

(B.)—Return of the same officer, showing the number of estates (boedels), the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the years (say three) succeeding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in and for the same counties.

(C.)—Return of the same officer, showing the number of plantations sold at execution sale, the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years preceding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in the same counties.

(D.)—Return of the same officer, showing the number of plantations sold at execution sale, the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the three years succeeding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office in the same counties.

(E.)—Report of the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo to your Excellency, showing—

1st. The number of estates of insolvent, deceased, and unrepresented persons which have devolved on him to be administered since the institution of his office, say from the 18th February, 1845, to the 18th February, 1848.
2nd. The number of these estates which have been closed.
3rd. The amount of money paid out by him during the same period.
4th. The number of guardianships under his administration during same period.
5th. The number of guardianships which have been closed by him.
6th. The amount of money paid out to his wards.

From these Returns it will appear—

1st. That for the three years preceding the institution of the Administrator-General's Office, the number of estates (boedels) closed by the Court were thirty-nine, and the aggregate amount of funds distributed was 42,392 dols. 57c., or 8831*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.*

BRITISH GUIANA.

2nd. That during the same period, the number of estates (boedels) closed by the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates cannot be ascertained, but the sum of 26,653 dols. 48c., or 5552*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* only was paid out or distributed.

3rd. That the number of estates, including guardianships, under the administration of the Administrator-General during the three years that office has been in existence, were 722, of which 352 have been closed, the aggregate amount of funds distributed being 304,293 dols. 84c., or 63,392*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*

4th. If it be said that this large sum includes the sum of 38,191 dols. 33c., amount of closed estates and balances received by the Administrator-General from the Court, yet, exclusive of that amount, the Administrator-General has paid out during his three years the sum of 266,092 dols. 51c., or 55,435*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.*, being 223,762 dols. 94c., or 46,604*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* more than the Court paid out during a like period. Adding the amount distributed by the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates, during the three years preceding the 18th February, 1845, to the amount paid out by the Court during the same period, it will be seen that the Administrator-General, during his three years, has paid out and distributed 197,046 dols. 46c., or 41,051*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* more than both the Court and the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates paid out for the corresponding period prior to the 18th of February, 1845. These facts, which cannot be controverted, prove the great benefits that have accrued to the public by the abolition of the old, and the introduction of the new, system.

I cannot conclude without remarking—

1st. That the reason the estates in the Administrator-General's Office were so numerous is, that many of them were upwards of twenty years standing, having lain dormant either in the Court of Justice or the Board of Orphans and Unadministered Estates, without any the slightest notice being taken of them.

2nd. That with the exception of the guardianships, which must continue until the minors become of age, all the estates in the Administrator-General's Office are in progress of liquidation, and in the course of twelve or eighteen months the greater number of them will be closed.

3rd. That the number of new estates will be by no means so great as the number at present under administration, for, as I have already stated, the very large number appearing in the Administrator-General's return was occasioned by an accumulation for years.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Governor Light,
British Guiana.

(Signed) WILLIAM ARRINDELL.
Acting Chief Justice.

(A.)

NUMBER of ESTATES (BOEDELS), the proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the Three Years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

Number.	Name of Estate.	Date of first and last Deposit in the Registry of Court.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out. Dols.	Cts.
1	Allicock . . . Estate of	3rd Nov. 1836	8th March 1842	5917	82
2	Estwick, Richard . „	15th April 1839	8th Jan. . .	490	18
3	Doyle, Martin . . „	30th Oct. 1837	11th March 1843	94	75
4	Ham, J. A. . . „	11th Jan. 1839	. . .	49	47
5	Cart, M. L. . . „	10th Nov. 1840 to 27th March 1843	. . .	2093	70
6	Brock, William . . „	21st May 1840 to 24th June 1841	. . .	180	42
7	Van Beusekom, J. H. . „	11th Feb. 1839	. . .	21	84
8	Barry, Thos. Edw. . „	23rd Nov. 1837	. . .	200	08
9	Richards, William . „	21st Oct. 1835 to 13th Jan. 1841	. . .	1871	10
10	Puleston, Thomas . „	5th May 1838 to 12th Dec. 1842	. . .	1899	60
11	Telfer, Martha Ann . „	25th Jan. 1841 to 31st March 1842	. . .	112	24
12	M'Gowan, Janette . „	17th Aug. 1843	19th Aug. .	228	63
13	Robertson, Robert . „	10th Oct. 1840	. . .	1602	19
14	Wahl, Elizabeth . . „	23rd June 1843	. . .	146	50
15	Buttevant, William . „	12th Nov. 1842	. . .	235	0
16	Hilleman, O. . . „	30th May 1843	8th Jan. 1844 .	15	79
17	Jones, Owen . . „	11th Oct. . .	. . .	53	33
18	Eyman, George . . „	15th April . .	. . .	174	94
19	Van Twist, H. D. . „	. . .	. . .	458	54
20	Maxwell, James . . „	22nd Aug. 1843	. . .	22	92
21	Hosack, Pomelia . „	5th April . .	. . .	777	75
22	Behrends, Christopher . „	15th April 1843 to 14th Oct. 1843	. . .	691	49

Number of Estates (Boedels), &c.—*continued.*

Number.	Name of Estate.	Date of first and last Deposit in the Registry of Court.	Date of Sentence of Præ et Con.	Amount paid out.
				Dols. Cts.
23	Barkey, D. J. C. . „	22nd Aug. 1843	. . .	50 396
24	Tapin, Maria . . „	12th April . .	9th April .	220 550
25	Shultz, Otto Louis . „	14th Sept. 1842 16th Jan. 1843	. . .	2761 58
26	Collymore, P. Forte . „	18th Nov. 1839	2nd April 1844 17th June 1844	1637 43
27	Okey, J. H. S. . . „	23rd Aug. 1843	2nd April 1844	18 81
28	Fraser, Magdalene . „	3rd July . .	. . .	5297 37
29	Fraser, George . . „	13th Jan. 1841 16th Jan. 1841	2nd April . 17th June .	8209 50
30	Kernan, W. W. . . „	14th Nov. 1843	. . .	411 72
31	Butts, John . . „	10th Aug. 1843	. . .	124 74
32	Davidson, Andrew . „	4th Feb. 1842	. . .	85 62
33	Clarke, Elizabeth . „	8th March 1843 17th June 1844	3rd Aug. .	1379 58
34	Padmore, R. . . „	5th Oct. 1843	. . .	284 77
35	Leonard, C. W. . . „	13th Nov. 1843	. .	233 78
36	M'Donald, Alexander . „	2nd April 1844	15th Feb. 1845	137 96
37	Snock, Edward . . „	6th Jan. 1844	. . .	10 4
38	Richardson, William . „	13th May 1844	. . .	380 18
39	Day, Charles . . „	13th Nov. 1843 4th June 1844	. . .	1371 75

Registrar's Office, Demerara, 18th April, 1848.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(B.)

NUMBER of ESTATES (BOEDELS), the Proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the Three Years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

No.	Name of Estate.	Date of first and last Deposit in the Registry of Court.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out.
				Dols. Cts.
1	De St. Felix, T. B. D. . Estate of	17th June 1844 17th April 1845	13th June 1845	2786 75
2	Game, Elizabeth. . „	2nd Dec. 1843 14th Feb. 1845	. .	4959 02
3	Fraser, James . . „	6th June 1844	. .	632 46
4	Dodd, Aubrey . . „	3rd Dec. 1844	. .	1505 19
5	Heyliger, Rebecca . „	. .	. .	126 53
6	Walcott, Francis Pierce . „	26th Sept. . .	. .	1124 38

Registrar's Office, Demerara, 18th April, 1848.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(C.)

NUMBER of PLANTATIONS sold at Execution Sale, the Proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out, for the Three Years preceding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

No.	Name of Plantation.	Date of Sale.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out.
				Dols. Cts.
1	Vrees-en-Hoop	3rd Oct. 1839	20th June 1842	173,542 04
2	New Bee Hive	25th May 1841	11th March 1843	55,116 44
3	Cullen	6th Oct. 1841	. .	72,292 19
4	Mon Bijou.	5th Dec. 1842	8th Jan. 1844	4,629 37
5	Diamond	23rd March 1842	. .	1,260
6	Strathaven	9th Nov. 1842	17th June . .	6,116 73
7	Industry	20th April 1843	. .	38,000
8	Retrieve	12th May 1843	. .	22,500
9	Philadelphia	14th Sept. 1843	3rd Aug. . .	2,137 57
10	Chantilly	6th April 1843	. .	6,554 67

Registrar's Office, Demerara, 18th April, 1848.

A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(D.)

NUMBER of PLANTATIONS sold at Execution Sale, the Proceeds of which have been awarded and paid out for the Three Years succeeding the creation of the Administrator-General's Office.

No.	Name of Plantation.	Date of Sale.	Date of Sentence of Præ. et Con.	Amount paid out. Dols.	Cts.
1	Ann's Grove and Two Friends	5th June 1844	13th June 1845	3,550	
2	Prosperity, C. Imtroff's, ½	4th Oct. 1843	. .	1,200	
3	Ditto, Mrs. S. C. Dodgson's, ½	7th Feb. 1844	. .	605	
4	Sans Souci (Wakenaany)	28th April 1843	1st Sept. . .	18,500	
5	John Cove, and Craig Milne	11th Oct. 1842	17th April 1846	81,514	28
6	Hibernia	1st May 1843	. .	24,599	53
7	New Hope	23rd Nov. 1843	. .	3,200	93
8	Java and Recht Door Zee	13th June 1843	19th June	7,362	35
9	Maryville	8th Aug. 1844	. .	19,227	42
10	Thomas	31st May 1844	. .	32,371	91
11	Vive La Force	2nd Feb. 1843	. .	67,264	32
12	Belmont	27th Nov. 1844	. .	11,694	23
13	Ostend	7th April 1845	. .	580	83
14	Walton Hall	5th May 1845	. .	8,438	51
15	Non Pareil	8th May 1845	. .	56,602	21
16	Sans Souci (Canal No. 1)	9th June 1845	. .	No Assets.	
17	Belle Plaine	27th April 1843	26th Feb. 1847	15,195	28
18	Kitty	9th June 1846	14th June 1847	14,575	87
19	Good Hope	9th May 1845	. .	1,038	27
20	Fellowship	15th Dec. 1845	6th July . .	6,004	46
21	Den Amstel	26th Nov. 1838	26th Nov. 1847	26,068	14

Registrar's Office, Demerara, 18th April, 1848. A. SCHRACK, Registrar.

(E.)

REPORT to His Excellency the GOVERNOR, from the ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL of Demerara and Essequibo.

Administrator-General's Office,
Demerara and Essequibo, 29th April, 1848.

No. 1.—There devolved to the administration of the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, estates of insolvent or deceased parties from 18th February, 1845, to 18th February, 1848, the number of 614.

Of these estates there have been closed during said period	339
Leaving still depending	275
	614

In the administration of these estates, the Administrator-General has paid out the sum of 284,745 dols. 88 c., "Two hundred and eighty-four thousand seven hundred and forty-five dollars eighty-eight cents."

No. 2.—There devolved to the administration of the Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, during the same period, guardianships numbering 118.

Of which there have been closed	13
Leaving still depending	105
	118

In the administration of these guardianships the Administrator-General has paid out balances in his hands, in settling with wards, to the amount of 19,537 dols. 96c., "Nineteen thousand five hundred and thirty-seven dollars and ninety-six cents."

It is proper to mention, that in the above number of 614 estates there is included a number of 109, in which the administration was apparently closed by the Court of Justice or Board of Orphans, but which were taken over by the Administrator-General for the purpose of finally disposing of, or depositing the balances remaining on hand, and which estates therefore appear in his book as so many administrations.

It is proper further to state, that the foregoing sum includes the amounts of the closed estates just referred to, and which amount in toto to the sum of 38,191 dols. 33c., "Thirty-eight thousand one hundred and ninety-one dollars thirty-three cents."

It is proper to mention also, that no notice is taken above of the administration of plantations under sequestration. The prices of these properties, when sold, do not come into the hands of, or fall under the administration of, the Administrator-General.

MEMORANDUM.—It appears from the books of the late Board of Orphans and unadministered estates, that during the three years prior to the appointment of an Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo, the number of estates devolving to said Board was 103.

The number of estates closed during the period aforesaid cannot be ascertained, but the amount paid out by the said Board, during the three years mentioned, relating to all estates under its administration, was 26,653 dols. 48c., "Twenty-six thousand six hundred and fifty-three dollars forty-eight cents."

JOHN KENNEDY,
1st May, 1848. Administrator-General of Demerara and Essequibo.

HONDURAS.

(No. 30.) No. 21.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. GREY to Earl GREY.

Honduras Blue Book, 1847.

No. 47, Aug. 10, 1848.

King's House, Jamaica,
October 5, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received November* 8, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the Blue Book of Honduras for the year 1847, together with a copy of an accompanying letter from Her Majesty's Superintendent of the settlement, containing some information which had been called for by your Lordship, and other interesting details of the existing and actual constitution of the Public Meeting. No commentary on my part can be required to convince your Lordship of the imperfection of the institutions by which the settlement is regulated.

By the next packet I hope to forward the general report to which reference is made in the Superintendent's letter.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) C. E. GREY.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

(No. 47.) Government House, Belize, B. Honduras,
SIR, August 10, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of this settlement for the year 1847.

On most of the topics embraced in the Book itself I have offered such observations in the report that accompanies it as have suggested themselves to my mind; but there is one point which I propose to consider more at length in the present Despatch, my attention having been specially directed to it by the remarks of Earl Grey on my report of last year. I have been desired to state for how long a period the members of the Public Meeting are chosen, and what is the form of election.

For Lord Grey's Despatch, Nov. 2, 1847, *vide* Annual Reports on the Colonial Blue Books for 1846. Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command, July 1847, p. 117.

The form of election is very simple; any one being desirous of being elected, addresses a letter to a member of the Public Meeting, accompanied by a statement in detail of his qualification, that he is a British born subject, a resident settler, and with 300*l.* sterling after the payment of his just debts. The member to whom application has been made, then writes to the Provost Marshal-General requiring him to open a poll, which poll is kept open for seven days. If 25 registered voters record their vote in his favour, the candidate is declared duly elected. No votes adverse to the candidate can be recorded. Finally, before taking his seat in the meeting, the newly-elected member must swear that he is in possession of the qualifications required by law.

Those who are elected to the Public Meeting continue to be members of that assembly for life. An absence for any length of time from the settlement would not impair their right to resume their seats in the Meeting on their return. This privilege had, I believe, its origin in the circumstance of the Public Meeting having been formerly for a long period a meeting of all the inhabitants. In consequence of the original constitution of this body, Her Majesty's Superintendent has not the power to dissolve the Public Meeting, a circumstance productive of the greatest public inconvenience, as well as placing great and peculiar difficulties in the way of the executive. About 30 years since, the constitution of the Public Meeting was changed, a resolution having been adopted by it to admit those only as members who were in the possession of certain defined qualifications. At the same period an electoral body was established. The Public Meeting of the inhabitants was thus transformed into a sort of select vestry. The number of the members is unlimited; the effect of which has been to produce a greater number of members than voters. In corroboration of this statement, I would observe that there are 64 members of the Public Meeting, and 59 voters. Of these 64 members only 33 are voters. This is occasioned by a loss of the pecuniary qualification which many of the members have sustained since they were elected, without which, at the time

HONDURAS.

they were chosen, they could not have been returned. The dispossession of this qualification does not operate as a forfeiture of their seats. The result is, that there are at present certain members of the Public Meeting who not only have not the pecuniary qualification which the law requires a member of that Meeting to possess, but who are not even qualified to register their names as voters, to accomplish which, by a recent regulation, the constituent body are obliged, once in every three years, to appear before the Grand Court, and to make an oath that they are still in possession of 60*l.* sterling after payment of their just debts. Failing to do so, their names are erased from the list of voters.

I take this opportunity of expressing my concurrence in that part of a Memorial recently addressed to the Secretary of State, in which his Lordship is requested to remodel the Public Meeting. The Public Meeting, as at present constituted, does not nor cannot represent the interests of the inhabitants generally, now amounting to 15,000 persons, one-third of whom I believe to be foreigners, and, as such, excluded from electoral and other political privileges. I should, indeed, infinitely prefer the old system of making the Public Meeting a public meeting of the inhabitants at large, without any restrictions whatever as to country, race, length of residence, or pecuniary qualifications, to that which at present exists, which is, in point of fact, an oligarchy.

The real governing body consists of five or six mahogany houses in Belize, whose operations are almost entirely dependent on certain other houses in London, who have usually a managing partner here. These establishments, not confining their operations to cutting mahogany and logwood on their own lands, but supplying another class of persons, called mahogany cutters, with goods, to enable them to pay their labourers, which latter, for the most part, receive nothing but goods in exchange for their labour. These cutters, thus disbursed, as it is termed, supply the merchant with a certain quantity of wood, and a running account is kept up between them, much to the advantage, I believe, of the latter party, the former, for the most part, being men without capital, and, consequently, obliged to submit to their employers' terms. Much more might be written on this subject, but the outline I have furnished will sufficiently enable your Excellency to judge why it is that the mahogany merchants are paramount in the Public Meeting, that body being mainly composed, with the exception of the public officers, of mahogany cutters, mahogany measurers, and mechanics, men with little or no education, well intentioned, I believe, but relying for their advancement in life on the few London and Belize merchants whose dependents, for the most part—I say it not offensively —they really are.

These merchants, already masters of the legislative body, are the persons who have been recently supplicating Her Majesty's Government to be invested with the executive power also, which would be an anomaly in Government, and productive of the greatest evils.

I have given much thought and attention to this subject during my residence here, and should have much to say on it were your Excellency desirous of submitting to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies a plan for the formation of a legally-constituted government in British Honduras.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN FANCOURT.

His Excellency Sir C. E. Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 22.

(No. 33.)

No. 22.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir C. E. Grey to Earl Grey.

King's House, Jamaica, October 20, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received November* 23, 1848.)

I have the honour to lay before your Lordship a copy of the general report of the Superintendent of Honduras as to the state of the settlement which it was intended should accompany the Blue Book of the settlement for 1847, but of which there was not time enough to make a copy for the packet by which the Blue Book was transmitted.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) C. E. GREY.
&c. &c.

Revenue and Expenditure.

In my last report I supplied a statement of the revenue and expenditure from 1834 to 1846 inclusive. On re-consulting the Blue Books, however, I have discovered that up to the 31st of December, 1837, the value of the dollar in those records was calculated at 4*s.* 2*d.* In the statement of the revenue and expenditure from 1830 to 1847 inclusive, subjoined, it is throughout assumed that the value of the pound sterling is five dollars.

Comparative Statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of British Honduras from 1830 to 1847 inclusive, in sterling Money, at Five Dollars to the Pound.

REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.			
Years.	Pounds Sterling.			Years.	Pounds Sterling.		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*		£.	*s.*	*d.*
1830	14,931	11	6	1830	13,278	6	2
1831	11,712	8	11	1831	11,525	15	0
1832	14,050	5	11	1832	16,997	18	10
1833	12,732	2	5	1833	14,113	15	8
1834	14,706	0	0	1834	14,241	10	2
1835	16,860	3	3	1835	13,915	9	2
1836	17,799	14	1	1836	12,771	17	8
1837	13,945	12	3	1837	13,770	5	5
1838	15,739	7	2	1838	16,592	10	4
1839	13,752	15	4	1839	15,970	15	1
1840	12,246	5	3	1840	12,537	8	5
1841	13,880	3	8	1841	12,695	17	0
1842	12,515	7	10	1842	13,459	8	10
1843	17,229	0	5	1843	14,920	17	6
1844	17,370	1	11	1844	14,162	7	7
1845	22,372	10	0	1845	18,302	3	8
1846	21,667	5	10	1846	19,200	7	1
1847	16,679	0	3	1847	21,809	0	4

A return is annexed, showing the amount of revenue collected in 1847, and the sources from which it has been derived; as compared with that collected in 1846, there is a decrease of 4988*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* This is partly accounted for by the duty on spirits having been reduced in 1847 from 4*s.* to 2*s.*, which would appear to have made a difference in the revenue, under this head alone, of 3574*l.*

As compared with 1846, there has been also a considerable falling off in the importation of wine, and of malt liquor and cider, and a less amount of tonnage dues received. The subjoined details will explain this matter more clearly.

Comparative Revenue derived from the Duties on Spirits, Wines, Malt Liquor, and Tonnage, during the Years 1846 and 1847.

1846.				1847.			
	£.	*s.*	*d.*		£.	*s.*	*d.*
Spirits, at 4*s.* per gallon .	6319	8	3	Spirits, at 2*s.* per gallon .	2745	19	0
Wines, at 2*s.* ditto . .	1034	10	0	Wines, at 2*s.* ditto . .	401	0	3
Malt Liquor and Cider, at 1*s.* per doz.	834	17	9	Malt Liquor and Cider, at 1*s.* per doz.	324	7	0
Tonnage, 2*s.* per ton . .	3058	8	0	Tonnage, 2*s.* per ton . .	2333	18	0

On the other hand, an increased revenue would appear to have been derived from spirit licenses; the amount collected in 1846 having been 690*l.*, that in 1847, 1215*l.*

From an alteration in the mode of collecting the tax of one per cent. *ad valorem* on unrated articles, the revenue derived from it in 1847 has been a little more than that collected in 1846, although the imports were less in the former than during the last-mentioned year.

The expenditure for 1847 has exceeded the revenue for the same year by 5130*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and it has exceeded the expenditure of 1846 by 2608*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* It will be observed, however. that the very large sum of 7023*l.* has been expended in public works during the year 1847, the probability of which expenditure I intimated in my report of last year; but notwithstanding, this occurring during a year in which the revenue had been materially diminished, owing to circumstances which I have already explained, a balance was still to the credit of the public, on the 31st December last, of 6952*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*

HONDURAS.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for 1847 amount to 281,458*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
From Great Britain	212,039	18	7
„ West Indies	1,457	8	0
„ United States	66,291	15	6
„ Foreign States	1,669	8	0

The nature of these imports are much the same as in former years. The aggregate amount, however, appears to have been larger in 1847 than in 1846, but, as I explained in my last Report, no accurate estimate of the imports are to be collected from the Blue Book of 1846.

Subjoined is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the years 1846 and 1847.

Exports.

	1846.	1847.
Mahogany . . .	9,567,570 feet . .	6,502,777 feet.
Cedar	4,139 feet . . .	10,337 feet.
Logwood	4,314½ tons . . .	3,222¾ tons.
Fustic	19¾ tons	. .
Rosewood . . .	1 ton and 37 pieces .	206¼ tons.
Cochineal. . . .	5,565 seroons . .	5,684 seroons.
Indigo	387 seroons . . .	611 serons.
Sarsaparilla . . .	101,031 lbs. . . .	53,689 lbs.
Hides	1488	1,299.
Tortoise shell . .	150 barrels . . .	45 lbs. and 1 box.
Cocoa nuts . . .	529,430	536,490.
Specie	276,496 dollars . .	. .
Preserved turtle . .	49 cases	16 turtles.
Plants	41 boxes	6 cases.
Gum	1 bag	. .
Lignum Vitæ . .	. .	10 tons.
Cases of cigars . .	. .	4.
Tobacco	. .	23 bales and 22 boxes.
Billy Web wood. .	. .	6 pieces.
Santa Maria . . .	. .	6 pieces.
Sapodilla	. .	128 pieces.

Schools.

It is highly gratifying to observe the desire evinced in this settlement for the promotion of education and religious instruction. The public meeting, at their late assembling in July, readily responded to a proposition conveyed in my message to increase the facilities of obtaining a plain education, and grants were made, without reference to the religious persuasions, for the support of any new schools which might be hereafter established.

The Honduras Grammar School, to which is annexed a department for girls, has hitherto exclusively received the patronage of the local Government. Considering the very liberal manner in which this institution is, and always has been supported, it has not achieved the results which might have been anticipated. It is, however, satisfactory to remark that the daily attendance of pupils during the last year has greatly increased; the average attendance in 1846 being 75, that in 1847, 100.

I earnestly hope that I shall soon be able to establish a school on the plan adopted by the Moravians, referred to in the report of the Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago, and recommended by Earl Grey.

The Baptists have at present only one school in Belize. They have declined to receive any assistance from the Government. The Wesleyans have a school in Belize, one in Stan Creek, and one at a small town on the banks of the Belize river. They have recently established a Spanish school, and their exertions generally in the cause of education here have been very praiseworthy. The Government has not hitherto been furnished with any reports of the dissenters' schools, but as I have it now in my power to extend the aid of the public funds to these schools, reports will be called for from such of them as shall avail themselves of this assistance.

Prisons.

I have little to add to what I said in my last year's report upon this subject. I then observed that the gaol of Belize was entirely inadequate to the purposes for which it was intended. Until a new building shall have been erected, no really beneficial prison discipline can be enforced. An amelioration of importance, however, has been effected by the removal of lunatics from within its walls The new lunatic asylum is combined with a dispensary for the relief of the poorer classes, and will be more particularly noticed in my report on hospitals.

Hospitals.

The following report I have received from Dr. Young, the public medical officer of the settlement:—

RETURN of PATIENTS admitted into the Honduras Public Hospital from 1st January to 31st December, 1847.

Diseases.	Admitted.	Cured.	Relieved.	Died.	Remaining.
Fevers. Bilious, Remittent	20	17	..	3	..
Fevers. Intermittent	47	46	..	..	1
Diseases of Lungs	11	6	..	3	2
Diseases of Stomach and Bowels	35	33	..	2	..
Diseases of the Head	4	3	..	1	..
Diseases of the Liver	4	4	..	..	..
Dropsies	4	..	2	1	1
Rheumatic Affections	16	16	..	..	..
Wounds and Injuries	22	15	..	4	3
Diseases of the Skin	3	1	2	..	..
Abscesses and Ulcers	20	19	..	..	1
Other Diseases	22	20	..	2	..
Old Age and Debility	4	..	..	4	..
Total	212	180	4	20	8

It will be observed, on comparing this report with that already furnished for the three preceding years, that the number of admissions in 1847 have been less than in either of the three preceding years, and 125 less than in 1846. The number of deaths would, however, appear to have been proportionately greater.

On the 18th of March, 1846, a dispensary for the relief of the poor was established, with which has been combined an asylum for the reception of lunatics. The report of the Committee of Management of this establishment, which will sufficiently explain the origin of the institution, and the mode in which it has been hitherto supported, is annexed. Appendix No. 2.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN FANCOURT,
Her Majesty's Superintendent.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

STATEMENT of the REVENUE of British Honduras for the Year 1847, in Sterling Money, at 5 Dollars to the £ Sterling.

Description.	Quantity.	Rate.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
Duty on hay	416 trusses	At 1*s.*	20	16	0
,, tonnage	23,339 tons	At 2*s.*	2,333	18	0
,, foreign crafts	288 tons	At 4*s.*	57	12	0
,, coffee	40,065 lbs.	At 8*s.* per 100 lbs.	160	6	9
,, cigars	690,500 lbs.	At 9*s.* per 1000	310	14	9
,, cattle	3,061 lbs.	At 4*s.*	612	4	0
,, horses and mules	71 lbs.	At 12*s.*	42	12	0
,, lumber	1,266,930 feet	At 8*s.* per 1000	506	16	9
,, shingles	1,489,750 feet	At 2*s.* per 1000	148	19	6
,, malt liquor and cider	2,060 galls. and 5,457 doz.	At 6*d.* and 1*s.*	324	7	0
,, molasses	118 galls.	At 6*d.*	2	19	0
,, sugar, brown	227,960 lbs.	At 8*s.* per 100 lbs.	911	17	0
,, ,, white	60,484 lbs.	At 12*s.* per 100 lbs.	362	18	6
,, spirits and cordials	2,394½ galls.	At 4*s.*	2,745	19	0
	11,335½ galls.	At 2*s.*			
,, wines	401,078 galls.	At 2*s.*	401	0	3
,, tobacco	75,835 lbs.	At 6*s.*	227	10	3
,, tea	4,706 lbs.	At 1*s.*	235	6	0
,, unrated articles	249,901*l.* 5s.	At 1 per cent.	2,499	0	3
Tax on carriage wheels	2	At 24*s.*	2	8	0
,, horses kept in town	2	At 24*s.*	2	8	0
,, licenses to retail spirits	40 at 30*l.*, 1 at 15*l.*		1,215	0	0
Fees of Colonial Secretary's Office			1,279	13	6
,, Clerk of Court's Office			358	8	9
,, Pro.-Marshal-General's Office			69	14	9
,, police office			342	16	6
,, church			57	8	0
,, gaol			31	10	0
,, market			397	9	0
,, hospital			349	0	0
Receipts from harbour dues			131	11	0
,, fines and confiscations			41	12	9
,, sales of public property			105	0	0
,, deposit store rent			23	13	0
,, rent of Council Chamber			132	12	0
,, storage of gunpowder			186	3	0
,, Haulover Ferry			28	5	0
Commission of Attorney-General			12	0	0
Amount refunded by Lieut. East, R.A.			7	10	0
		£	16,679	3	0

Public Treasury, Belize, Honduras.
December 31, 1847.

(Signed) JOHN GOUGH, Public Treasurer.

No. 2.

The FIRST GENERAL REPORT of the FANCOURT DISPENSARY, 31st March, 1848.

IN presenting their First General Report of the year's operations, the Committee would respectfully submit to the public a statement of the origin, object, and mode of support of the institution committed to their management.

In stating the origin of this institution, it must be remembered that, prior to the termination of the apprenticeship which subsisted here after the abolition of slavery, the labouring classes were provided, during sickness, with medical advice and medicines at the expense of their late owners. These expenses, hitherto borne by other parties, would necessarily devolve upon the labouring classes themselves, under the altered condition of their circumstances, although it is but justice to state that a liberal allowance was made by many of the late owners for the support of their faithful servants. The consequence of the labouring classes being thus thrown upon their own resources was the partial, and, in a great many instances, the total neglect of all application on their part to the duly qualified practitioner in the time of sickness, and the further consequence of many deaths, resulting from the absence of any proper medical treatment. Although the amount of evil arising from this state of things may have been small for the first year or two, owing to the humanity of the medical profession in gratuitously treating

those cases which were immediately brought under their notice, yet each succeeding year the evil was progressively increasing.

It was, therefore, no less a sound policy than a Christian duty to devise means to arrest the progress of so fearful an evil. His Excellency Her Majesty's Superintendent, whose anxiety to promote the prosperity and welfare of all classes of this community, must be ever gratefully conceded, was the first to propose the formation of an institution which should combine a gratuitous provision of medical advice and medicine for the indigent poor with a relief to that class of persons who are not in circumstances to command medical assistance in time of sickness and distress. To support an institution of this nature it was suggested that application should be made to those who were charitably disposed for donations and annual subscriptions; that the several ministers of religion should be requested to preach an annual sermon in its behalf; and that servants and all persons in the receipt of the limited wages of from eight dollars to fifteen dollars per month should pay a monthly contribution to entitle them to the benefits of the institution. The institution was therefore to be mainly supported by funds derived from charitable resources. Provision for a lunatic asylum was at the same time contemplated.

On the 18th March, 1847, an institution, based upon these general grounds, was accordingly opened, under the designation of the Fancourt Dispensary, his Excellency Colonel Fancourt graciously accepting the office of patron. It was placed under the management of the Committee who have now the honour of submitting to the public this report. The medical services of Alfred Crocker, Esq., staff assistant surgeon of Her Majesty's forces, were temporarily engaged, and patients were daily prescribed for at the dispensary, or attended at their homes, as the case required. A perusal of the monetary statement and medical return for the year, both of which documents are attached to this report, will at once exhibit the liberal support which has been extended to the infant society, as well as the very great utility of its operations. The income for the year ending 31st March, 1848, amounts to 354*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, whilst the expenditure has been limited to 294*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

The number of patients for the same period was 354, of whom 298 were subscribers, and 56 were treated gratuitously. The number prescribed for at the dispensary was 202, and 152 were attended at their homes.

The Committee would here gratefully acknowledge the important aid which has recently been rendered by Government to the institution, his Excellency Her Majesty's Superintendent and Council, having signified to the Committee their intention to apply a portion of the proceeds arising from the sale of mahogany trees on the Crown lands towards the payment of the medical officer, an arrangement which was to take effect from the 1st January of the present year, and to continue in force as long as the Crown derived a sufficient revenue from this source.

The peculiar advantages derivable from this institution are obvious. Not only is much personal misery and pain entirely removed, or greatly alleviated, by the timely application of the poorer classes for its aid, but by the out-door medical relief which this institution affords, the public hospital, supported by the public funds, is left to pursue undisturbedly its legitimate sphere of providing for the necessities of the sick seaman, the homeless invalid, and the person who may be so unfortunate as to meet with a serious accident, requiring prompt surgical attendance.

The Committee have had the honour to receive a commuication from his Excellency Her Majesty's Superintendent relative to the combination of a lunatic asylum with the dispensary, which important document they would not for a moment withhold from the public, although it has been received subsequent to the close of the year's proceedings and would more properly have formed a portion of the report for the ensuing year.

The Committee however are compelled by the limited space of the columns, kindly allotted by the public journals for the publication of their report, to reserve the many observations which his Excellency's letter suggests, to a future time; they would only at present congratulate the public upon the happy exchange which the poor unfortunate lunatics will undergo by their removal from the common gaol to an asylum where their comforts and mental infirmities will receive every care and special attention.

(Signed) JOHN GOUGH, Chairman.
W. H. COFFIN, Treasurer.
JOSEPH WEBSTER, Wesleyan Missionary.
JOHN KINGDON, Baptist Missionary.
JOSEPH GEGG, Settlement Curate and Secretary.

Monetary Statement.

	£.	s.	d.
Collections after sermons	60	0	5
Donations and annual subscriptoons	195	15	10
Payments by subscribers	99	0	5
	354	16	8

	£.	s.	d.
Medical officer	197	18	4
Servant	21	6	8
Printing	10	10	10
Furniture	6	1	3
Medicine and nourishment	59	0	5
	294	17	6
Balance in favour of the Fancourt Dispensary on the 21st March, 1848	59	19	2
	354	16	8

(Signed) W. H. COFFIN, Treasurer.

HONDURAS.

RETURN of CASES treated at the Fancourt Dispensary, Belize, from 18th March, 1847, to 31st March, 1848.

DISEASES.		Cured.	Relieved.	Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining.	Total.	Total healed of each Class of Diseases.
Fevers.	Intermitttent	22	..	..	..	..	22	51
	Remittent	5	..	..	1	..	6	
	Common continued	22	..	..	..	1	23	
Eruptive fevers	Scarlatiua	6	..	..	..	1	7	7
Diseases of the Brain.	Apoplexy	..	..	..	1	..	1	9
	Palsy	..	..	2	1	..	3	
	Head-ache	5	..	..	..	..	5	
Diseases of the Lungs.	Inflammation of the air passage acute	19	1	..	..	..	20	36
	Inflammation of the air passage chronic	..	1	..	1	..	2	
	Inflammation of the substance of the lungs	..	..	..	1	..	1	
	Hæmorrhage from the lungs	..	1	..	..	..	1	
	Consumption	..	..	..	2	..	2	
	Asthma	3	4	..	..	..	7	
	Difficulty of breathing	..	1	..	2	..	3	
Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels.	Hæmorrhage from the stomach	..	..	1	..	..	1	129
	Dysentery acute	1	..	1	2	..	4	
	Dysentery chronic	..	..	..	1	..	1	
	Indigestion	22	2	..	..	2	26	
	Diarrhœa	18	..	..	1	..	19	
	Constipation	54	4	..	1	2	61	
	Worms	15	2	..	..	..	17	
Dropsies.	Dropsy general	4	1	1	1	..	7	9
	Dropsy of the abdomen	..	1	..	1	..	2	
Rheumatic affections.	Rheumatism acute	6	1	..	..	..	7	50
	Rheumatism chronic	10	6	1	1	3	21	
	Rheumatism of the face and head	11	1	..	..	..	12	
	Rheumatism of the chest	2	1	..	..	..	3	
	Rheumatism of the back	5	1	..	..	1	7	
Venereal affections		1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Abscesses and Ulcers.	Ulcers	2	..	1	..	..	3	6
	Abscesses	..	1	1	..	..	3	
Wounds and Injuries.	Burns	1	..	..	..	..	1	8
	Contusions	5	..	..	..	..	5	
	Incised wounds	2	..	..	..	..	2	
Diseases of the eye		..	..	..	..	2	2	2
Diseases of the skin		6	..	1	..	2	9	9
Diseases peculiar to females		6	1	..	..	..	7	7
Diseases peculiar to infants		4	..	..	..	..	4	4
Various diseases	Ear-ache	2	..	..	..	..	2	26
	Sore throat	13	..	1	..	..	14	
	Stone in the bladder, and other diseases	7	1	1	..	1	10	
	Total	276	31	10	17	17	354	354

Of the numbers included in this return—

298 were subscribers to the institution.
56 were treated gratuitously.

Prescribed for at the dispensary (subscribers)	60	121	202
Gratuitous	7	14	
Attended at their homes (subscribers)	28	89	152
Gratuitous	11	24	

APPENDIX.

Government House, Belize,
May 12, 1848.

SIR,

I HAVE now the pleasure of announcing to you and to the Committee of Management of the "Fancourt Dispensary," that the house formerly occupied by the Baptist Mission is ready for the reception of the medical officer of the establishment, and that the necessary arrangements have been made for the convenient accommodation of lunatics.

The arrangements which have been carried into effect in that part of the building which is destined for the lunatic asylum have been made in accordance with the suggestion of Dr. Dickie, the medical officer of the institution.

The building and entire premises are held by Her Majesty's Superintendent for the time being, with the sole object of their being made use of as a dispensary for the relief of the poor, and as a comfortable receptacle for lunatic persons.

I think this a convenient opportunity of informing you in what manner the purchase money has been made up.

The Committee of the Ladies' Bazaar, which was held in December last, the proceeds of which were to be applied towards providing a house and convenient premises for the reception of lunatics, to be combined with a dispensary for the relief of indigent persons, have transmitted to me the sum of 689 dollars 1 rial. The Superintendent and Council made up the difference between this sum and 2000 dollars from the proceeds of the sale of Crown lands and mahogany trees. The amount therefore applied towards purchasing the building has been 400*l.* sterling, and the house and premises cost 1100*l.* To make up the deficiency I borrowed 700*l.* sterling at 6 per cent., on the security of the house, and this mortgage is held by Her Majesty's Attorney-General.

Until the mortgage is paid off I have decided on letting the various smaller houses on the premises, which are separated from the main building, with a view of applying the proceeds to keeping the whole in repair, and I shall not therefore be obliged to burden the funds collected by the Committee with any charges on account of repairs and alterations. The interest, however, of 6 per cent. on 700*l.* sterling, I trust that the Committee of Management will be able to supply, until the mortgage is redeemed, as well as all the current expenses of the establishment, for medicines, servants, &c.

It was decided, I am informed, at the last public meeting, that whenever a lunatic asylum was established, the sum usually voted for purveying the prisoners in the gaol should be charged with three rials a-day for the support of each lunatic who might be admitted. I conclude, however, that this allowance can only be intended for indigent persons, and I would therefore recommend to the Committee that those who are possessed of competent means, or who have near relations who can afford to aid them, should be admitted to the benefits of the institution subject to a moderate weekly charge.

I ought perhaps to mention to the Committee of Management that no persons should be received into the lunatic asylum without an order for admission under the hand and seal of Her Majesty's Superintendent.

I have, &c.,

John Gough, Esq.,
Chairman of the Fancourt Dispensary.

(Signed) C. St. John Fancourt.

Sir, May 12, 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of this day's date, and will immediately summon the Committee of Management together, for the purpose of our taking into consideration the important subject to which your Excellency has called our attention.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Colonel Fancourt.

(Signed) John Gough.

Extract from the Regulations.

All domestic servants and persons who are able to earn from 8 dollars to 15 dollars per month are admitted to the benefits of the Dispensary at the following rates of subscription:—

A single man . . 1*s.* 8*d.* currency per month.
A man and his wife . 2*s.* 6*d.* ditto.
And 5*d.* per month for every child.

Widows and unmarried mothers who are now living morally at 10*d.* currency per month.

Those who are unable to earn so much as 8 dollars per month will be admitted to the benefits of the Institution gratis, on receiving an order from a Member of the Committee or from any Minister of the Gospel.

TRINIDAD.

(No. 21.) No. 23.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord Harris to Earl Grey.

My Lord, Trinidad, February 21, 1848.

(*Received March* 27, 1848.)

I have the honour to forward to you by this mail the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1847.

The items which require any particular notice from me are, first, the diminution of revenue under the head of imports, which amounts to 7596*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* as compared with 1846.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1846 . . .	62,703	19	11
1847 . . .	55,107	13	3

The decrease as compared with the whole receipts is considerable; it may be partly accounted for from the unnecessarily large importation which had taken

TRINIDAD.

place in previous years, and partly from the general depression which occurred during the latter portion of the year.

It is a matter for some question how far any rapid increase in the consumption of superfluities may be counted on for the future, and whether the population of the island when it is put to the trial, will, as money becomes scarcer, prefer to procure luxuries by increased exertion, or will relinquish them rather than undergo greater physical labour.

This is still a doubtful point, and will probably take some time to decide; but the tendency at present is, I fear, in the latter direction.

The principal articles in which the decrease has taken place are, cottons, linens, and silks, boots and shoes, and hardware.

There is a very slight increase in the exports, occasioned by a larger crop and a more extensive shipment of rum.

The quantity of sugar exported last year was 44,665,600 lbs., estimated value 382,551*l.*; that of 1846 was 37,901,800 lbs., estimated value 414,110*l.*; but the prices being much lower the duty diminished accordingly.

I fear that no great improvement can be expected on this item for the present or the succeeding year, and in consequence of the probable diminution of the quantity of land which will be cultivated for the future, an increase cannot be counted on for some time.

I had hoped to have forwarded to your Lordship a return showing the average cost of cultivating the sugar-cane; of the manufacture of the sugar, the quantity produced per acre, with some other information, in the several English, French, Spanish, and Danish islands. The information has been collected, and is still collecting for me, by Dr. Mitchell, a physician of this island, who, I believe, possesses as much practical and scientific knowledge on these subjects as can well be combined in one person, and who has been travelling through the islands for me, in order to acquire a knowledge of the latest improvements of every kind. It has, however, been found so difficult to make any approach to average statements in numbers, that I am obliged to wait for further information; what I have actually collected goes to show, that in the English colonies the sugar has been produced at a considerable loss at the late prices.

There are, however, estates in most of the islands where skill, science, and economy have been brought to bear, and which have made a fair return for the capital expended.

On the best managed estates in the English islands, a cwt. of sugar may be produced for $2·50 = 10*s.* 5*d.*; but the average range is from $4 to $7 = 16*s.* 8*d.* to 1*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*; in Martinique, to 15*s.* 10*d.*; in Guadaloupe, the same; in Santa Cruz, from $2·25 to $2·50 = 9*s.* 2½*d.* to 10*s.* 5*d.*; Porto Rico, cheaper; of Cuba I have no correct information, but from 50 cents to $1 = 2*s.* 1*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.*, which is the same as it was in Trinidad, I have heard, during the existence of slavery.

In Trinidad, I believe, no sugar has been produced at a less cost than $3 = 12*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., but the average is between $4 and $5. Now I find that the average price in the colony, for the last six months of 1847, was $3·83 = 15*s.* 11½*d.**; so that the mere production costs more than could be obtained in the market, leaving nothing for the interest of capital, reserve for losses, &c., &c.

Wages in Trinidad, 30 cents = 1*s.* 3*d.* per task, which takes from four to five hours' work. It is very rare to hear of two tasks being done in a day by the same man.

Forty cents = 1*s.* 8*d.* per day of eight hours.

In Jamaica, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day.
In Barbados, 6½*d.* per day.
In St. Lucia, 1*s.* 3*d.* per day.
In Grenada, 1*s.* per day.
In Santa Cruz, free labour, 1*s.* 8*d.* per day.

In Guadaloupe ond Martinique the cost of the keep of a slave, for the year, is *frs.* 220 = 9*l.* 3*s.*, or 6*d.* per day; so that Barbados is the only English island at all on an equality with the French, so far as cost of labour is concerned; but there the slaves can be made to work any number of hours in the 24 his master may order.

* This was the average price at which sugar was sold during the year in the colony, but it did not fetch so much in the home market. The present price of sugar is 2·50 dollars sold in the island.

But besides the mere cost, another important point should be added, which is that the sugar made in the slave countries is decidedly superior to that produced by free labour; and this is not altogether owing to the greater care, or the superior machinery they possess; for it will be found that the quality of the sugar has deteriorated in many of our colonies since emancipation, which can only be attributed to the difficulty of procuring experienced labourers, or such as will take sufficient pains to ensure the production of a good article.

Such a state of things has, of course, been felt most severely; but I am happy to say that though greatly dispirited, the planters are exerting themselves almost universally to improve the quality of their sugar, and to diminish the cost of production. Much may yet be done, by the introduction of implemental husbandry and machinery; but as their slave-possessing opponents are equally well, if not better, provided with these, it is very questionable how far they can succeed in the struggle.

I have already on several occasions pointed out to your Lordship the very great benefit which would accrue to this island if a more liberal policy could be adopted respecting the trade with other countries, more especially with France and Spain; a still greater one would be gained if the neighbouring republic of Venezuela could be induced to modify its customs' duties.

Should the steam communication between Port of Spain and Maturin, which I have shown every inclination to support, be established, it will prove very beneficial; but I am more anxious to see a similar one, only on a larger scale, set on foot between this and the city of Bolivar (lately Angostura). There are many reasons for hoping that Port of Spain may eventually become the receptacle of the trade of that vast tract of country from which the Orinoco draws its waters. A steamer, passing by the Cano Macaroo, could reach Bolivar in 70 hours, and return in 50; whereas merchant vessels take from 5 to 20 days to ascend to that place from the chief mouth of the river. An American company has already entered into a contract with the Venezuelian government to navigate the Orinoco, from Bolivar upwards, for a distance of 700 miles, by steamer; it only requires, therefore, to connect Trinidad and Bolivar by a similar, only I hope by an English company, and the interior of the western part of that vast continent would be opened for enterprise, and an invaluable impulse given to the commerce of this island. I have explained my ideas on this subject to Mr. Curtis, the enterprising and able engineer of the Trinidad Railway Company; should he be able to make any progress in this matter while he is in England, and should it come under your Lordship's notice, I beg to recommend it to your favourable consideration.

There is but a very small increase under the head of Crown lands. I have been able to do little more at present than prepare for future improvements. A proclamation was issued offering grants, under the conditions sanctioned by your Lordship; the returns of applicants are not yet completed. The village of Arima has been sold in lots; I hear that some activity in consequence may now be seen in its streets. The village of Aronea has been laid out, and a good many lots purchased; and I hope in a short time to have three or four more villages in progress in different parts of the country.

The failure of the West India Bank has prevented many of the peasantry from becoming purchasers, as great numbers of that class had hoarded their notes; there appears to be still a great prejudice amongst them against entrusting their money to the savings' bank.

It is, however, necessary to proceed with considerable caution in the sale even of village lots. There is a marked inclination in the population to retire to any spot of land they can purchase, instead of continuing to work as hired labourers; and though it may be of minute proportions, yet it is considered at once as an independence, whether it be sufficient to support them and their families, or not.

The frequent division of properties amongst the members of families facilitates these purchases greatly. As the portions become too small to be carried on, for instance, as coffee or cocoa estates, they are sold in small lots, and are thenceforward turned by the purchasers into badly cultivated provision grounds. Though this description of settler has become very numerous, yet no market can be worse supplied with fruit and vegetables than Port of Spain, and the population depends almost entirely on the Main for the larger sort of provisions, such as yams, plantains, and sweet potatoes.

The increase of the public expenditure has been occasioned, as your Lordship is aware, mainly by immigration and the public buildings. The court-house will be

TRINIDAD.

finished and occupied next month, by which 450*l.* per annum, the amount of rent for the premises at present used for that purpose, will be saved to the colony.

Of the ordinances which were passed by the Legislative Council, that for the encouragement of immigration, &c., No. 9 of 1847, alone requires any lengthened notice from me.

I cannot say that it has succeeded to my satisfaction. The causes of its failure I attribute partly to the very depressed circumstances of the planters at the time of its being brought into force, and the general conviction that the Coolies would not remain on the estates, consequently inducing a small demand for the Coolies, and partly to its want of adaptation to the localities and the population with which it was intended to deal.

The ordinance was brought into force on the 7th June last year, and orders were issued to Major Fagan, the Cooly magistrate, to proceed as rapidly as possible to the several estates in the island to explain the conditions of the law to the proprietors and the Coolies, and to draw out the contracts for all who should be desirous of entering into them. The stipendiary magistrates were also required to render every assistance, and as much as possible to prepare both parties for the Cooly magistrate's visit.

At the end of Major Fagan's tour it was found that the number of estates which had taken Coolies on contract, and the number of Coolies under contract, were as follows:—

Number of estates taking Coolies under contract . .	46
Number of estates taking Coolies under the monthly tax .	25
Number of Coolies taken under contract	1,204
Number of Coolies taken under monthly tax . . .	371
Number of Coolies under contract and monthly tax . .	1,575
Number of Coolies in the island	4,357

Of the 46 estates the proprietors or managers of 29 paid the 2*l.* per head as required; the others gave bills on their agents in town, which were dishonoured, and which remain unpaid to the present day.

I should have proceeded to require payment had I not found that the means were not forthcoming, and had the Coolies not for the most part left the estates and broken their contracts before I learnt the fate of the bills which had been given by the planters.

In fact, it was discovered afterwards that many of them left the estates within a week of entering into the contract, but no pains were taken to give the Government any information of it. It was even stated to me, on pretty good authority, that on some estates the Coolies were concealed during the visit of Major Fagan, and brought back to their work when he had left that part of the country.

I have said above that the want of means was one cause why contracts were not more generally entered into by the planters. I have on previous occasions described to your Lordship how entirely the greater number of them depend upon advances from merchants for the carrying on their estates, and it has been impossible for them, for the most part, to procure any at all this year. Money has lately been borrowed in Port of Spain at 45 per cent., and many were therefore unable to pay the tax required upon taking contract Coolies.

But there was also a general feeling that the provisions of the ordinance were not sufficiently stringent to warrant their advancing the sum required.

That such has turned out to be the case there can be no doubt. I shall proceed to explain why it appears to me that it was likely to happen.

Your Lordship will remember that the withdrawal of some rules which I had established, respecting the management of the Coolies, was required by a despatch dated 15th September, 1846, and they were accordingly cancelled on the 17th of October following.

The chief principle on which those rules were grounded, was the keeping the Coolies on the estates to which they were allowed by a system of leave tickets and passes, and the ensuring a fulfilment of the agreement made on both sides, by a just and constant surveillance by the Cooly magistrate.

Doubtless there were numerous faults in those rules; from the circumstances of the case they had been drawn up at very short notice, but all will allow, who had the opportunity of judging, that during their operation the Coolies were healthy, well clothed, generally contented, and improving daily in habits of industry.

On the withdrawal of those rules, they gradually returned to the habits which are natural to them; they left the estates, and were to be seen wandering about the country in bands, and by the time that the immigration ordinance came into force, but few were remaining on the properties on which they had been originally located.

I must now explain how the provisions of that ordinance did not serve to correct the evil. On entering into contract, the Coolies were liable on breaking their engagement to certain penalties. In order to enforce these it was necessary first that the delinquents should be caught, and then brought before a justice of the peace. Now the great difficulty is, in this country, to get such penalties to bear at all upon the delinquents.

Your Lordship must remember that the sugar estates in this colony, comprising at the most an extent of 32,000 acres, are scattered over an area of 1,200,000, and that though in some districts they are closely packed, in others they are separated by extensive forests, and that even where the estates are adjoining one another, the roads are for some months in the year almost impassable for horsemen.

A proprietor or manager, on finding that his Coolies have left the estate, would first of all have to discover in what direction they had proceeded, no easy matter in a thinly populated country, and chiefly forest land. If he get information of their course, he must then either himself leave his estate or send his overseer, by which loss is certain to accrue to him (for I can assure your Lordship, whatever you may hear to the contrary, that it requires strict, constant, and untiring watchfulness to procure the very sparing and very imperfect labour of the Creole from him), and he may probably go after all in the wrong direction, and never fall in with the Coolies, but if he do, then he has to lose more days in appearing at police offices, &c.

The result has been that I know of only one instance in which the proprietor has attempted to recover the Coolies.

The consequence of their re-adoption of their wandering habits have been most distressing. I was induced, from numbers being found destitute, sick, and starving in the roads, to establish two hospitals for their reception, one at Port of Spain, and the other at San Fernando, both under the superintendence of the surgeon of the colonial hospital. The returns of the last eight months have shown an average of between 200 and 300 people to provide for instead of 90, which had been the previous average. Since last June 250 Coolies have died in the hospital, and great numbers in other places; in fact, scarcely a week passes but reports are sent from different parts of the country, of the skeletons of Coolies being found in the woods and cane-pieces. I believe that in no country has greater suffering been undergone than by these unfortunate people in the shape of disease, starvation, and ultimate death; and to those who have had to witness it daily it has been most distressing. Such being the state of the contracts, it was impossible to carry out the monthly tax provision; the principle of the law depended, I imagine, on the supposition that there would be a demand for all under contract; that not being the case, and the Coolies declaring their willingness to enter into contract, they could hardly be forced to pay the tax. In addition, it would have been impossible to enforce it, in consequence of their inability to pay, for the wages of numbers have been in arrear for a long time, often as much as three and four months.

The scarcity of money is and has been so great, that on the arrival of the Africans by the "Growler," I was informed that, though willing to take them, no one could afford to pay the tax, and I was obliged to take bills at three months, or else I must have kept the immigrants on my hands.

With respect to the Coolies who have arrived the case was even worse; for two days I waited, and not a single application was received for any one of them. The Immigration Agent-General was sent to inquire if any would take them, but all declined, and I was at length obliged to distribute them amongst six estates, the agents of which offered to take them on making no payment at all.

Had it been in my power, I was resolved to retain these people, and employ them for the Government, and I would have done so at first with all the Coolies, but that it would have required an army to collect them and keep them in custody; and besides, your Lordship is aware of the pecuniary difficulties in which I have been, and still am placed; that I have at times scarcely enough in the treasury to liquidate the most ordinary calls for hospitals, gaol, and police, and I

TRINIDAD.

should therefore have been utterly unable to support these Coolies for more than a few days, and must have yielded at last to circumstances.

I have felt and still feel myself in a most disagreeable position respecting the state of the immigrants; there is nothing more objectionable than to allow the provisions of any law to fall into desuetude; but every point upon which I might have expected support, the very ground on which the law was framed, have failed me.

1st. There was not a demand even for half the Coolies.

2nd. Then the pecuniary destitution of the planters.

3rd. Their indifference or inability to see the law carried out.

I have felt also the more anxious of the success of this law because it did not emanate from myself. I have no doubt of the wisdom of the principle which your Lordship laid down, that we should seek "to place them (the immigrants) in a "situation in which they might be acted upon by the same motives by which men "are impelled to labour in industrious countries."

Now I would, with all deference, submit that it is, from what I have already shown, impossible to place the immigrant in a situation similar to that of labourers in industrious countries, the circumstances of the countries, of the facilities for communication, for travelling, for justice, for police, being so very different.

I have, moreover, great doubts whether the Cooly and the African are morally or mentally capable of being acted upon by the same motives in this island on their first arrival as labourers are in more civilized countries. That one which urges the mere support of animal existence will not induce them to continuous and skilful labour when their wants can be supplied by the most parsimonious use of their muscles. The fear of the law, it is manifest, is not very readily brought to bear on them. Luxuries they do not generally know of or require. The only independence which they would desire is idleness, according to their different tastes in the enjoyment of it. And then the higher motives which actuate the European labourer (and we must remember the vast difference there is even in Europe with respect to the industry of various races), which are above and beyond circumstances irrespective of mere self interest, which he has received as his patrimony from previous generations, and which I believe, even in this age, are still to be found prevailing amongst them, viz., that to be industrious is a duty and a virtue; that to be independent in circumstances, whatever his station, raises a man in the moral scale amongst his race; and that his ability to perform his duties as a citizen, and there we may add as a Christian, is increased by it. These, and such motives as these, are unknown to the fatalist worshippers of Mahomet and Brahma, and to the savages who go by the name of liberated Africans.

A proof of this, and a marked difference, may be seen daily in the vicinity of Port of Spain. The Portuguese are chiefly settled in the town or its vicinity as gardeners, &c.; their services are at a premium; their work is on the whole more valuable; they get higher wages than the African, the Cooly, or the Creole, so that their circumstances are at least as good, in fact better, for they live more economically. Yet at four o'clock, when their day's task is over, they are to be seen not idling about the grog shops, or loitering about the streets, but employing the remaining hours of daylight in cutting up wood wherever they get leave to do so, and carrying logs or bundles of it into town for sale; but no such idea had ever entered the heads of the others; and now when times are altered, when provisions are scarce and dear, and money hardly to be got, they have not shown any symptoms of following the example, or of employing their extra time profitably.

After having given my best consideration to the subject, it appears to me that in the first place the immigrants must pass through an initiatory process. They are not, neither Coolies or Africans, fit to be placed in a position which the labourers of civilized countries may at once occupy; they must be treated like children, and wayward ones too; the former from their habits and their religion, the latter from the utterly savage state in which they arrive.

They must serve an apprenticeship, if not, if suffered to go at large, the consequences to the Coolies have been only too extensively and sadly developed in Jamaica, in Demerara, and in Trinidad. To the African, he for the most part lives, but he remains a savage, and frequently leaves the cultivated lands and joins his countrymen at one of the several villages which they have been permitted to establish. Here again, when he has once escaped, the proprietor and the law are baffled; if search is made, where in the forests is he to be looked for? If tracked

to a village he is not to be found; he can always elude the seekers, who seldom take the trouble to return for him a second time.

To show your Lordship how necessary it is that if immigration is to be continued some stricter surveillance must be adopted, I give a return which I called for last November, and which was made on the 30th of that month. The returns were sent from every sugar estate but one, and from most of the large cocoa properties in the island. The statement shows the number of men, women, and children located on the estates, or working on that day, to which is added the number of Creoles, most of whom are slaves liberated in 1838, or their descendents.

Countries whence Imported.	Number of Immigrants Imported.
Old Islanders	11,339
Africans	3,990
Coolies	4,359
Americans (free black)	1,301
Portuguese	962
Saba	64
Total immigrants	22,015
Natives of Trinidad emancipated in 1838	20,656
	42,671

Countries whence Imported.	Number remaining on Estates.	Cost.		
		£.	*s.*	*d.*
Old Islanders	2,641	26,790	8	4
Africans	2,154	30,695	7	8
Coolies	2,110	78,013	13	5
Americans	148	8,131	5	0
Portuguese	119	7,014	1	8
Saba	. .	200	0	0
	7,172	150,844	16	1
Natives of Trinidad emancipated in 1838	3,166	1,184,964	16	3
	10,338	1,335,809	12	4

So that 5291 men, 2798 women, 2249 children = 10,338, were to be found of all sorts (including the increase since 1838) located, though perhaps not working, and working, though perhaps not located, on nearly all the estates of the island on the 30th November last.

The proportion of men, women, and children is matter for serious consideration.

Of course this report does not presume to state that the rest are lost utterly and entirely to the colony, but it does seem that the immigrants have not up to the present time answered the purposes for which they were imported, or at all events that a most extensive diminution takes place; for though the immigration may be said to have commenced in 1839, yet by far the larger portion has occurred within the last five years. Some doubtless located in the towns and neighbouring villages may be still available during crop time, but generally such is not the case; they live independently, and not, I fear, by honest industry. During the crop time the sugar canes from neighbouring estates furnish a large part of their food; a few plantains, sweet potatoes, tobacco, all easily procured, and salt fish make the sum of their wants.

It is most desirable that an attempt should be made to prevent such results for the future. The immigrant has been looked upon too much as a mere animal, whose labour is valuable; whereas I would endeavour to make him eventually a useful colonist, an industrious and worthy citizen. To attain this he must be subjected to a discipline and to education. The provisions of that discipline must be directed, superintended, and enforced by the Government, in a colony like this. To leave it to the proprietor or manager to whom the immigrant may be entrusted as a labourer, is probably rendering the plan nugatory; there are duties towards

TRINIDAD.

those under him, which he is also ignorant of, and which he must be taught. Could the immigrants already imported at such heavy cost have been kept to the purposes for which they were introduced, their labour alone would amply suffice to carry on the cane cultivation, and the sugar manufacture of the island.

It will be conceded by all, that an allowance of one person for two hogsheads (including the work of men, women, and children,) is amply sufficient; or rather, that a population of 100 persons is able to produce 200 hogsheads of sugar, and that the aged and sick may be included in that number. It might be done with less, in fact; there are those who have assured me that they can manage with the work of from 30 to 50 for 200 hogsheads. But taking the larger number, and putting the average of the crop of the island at 30,000 hogsheads, it is really less, 15,000 persons would be required. The population of the island at the last census (1845) was 59,815.

It is questionable, under present circumstances, whether immigration can, or if so, whether it ought to be continued; and it is still more questionable, if it be true, as I am informed, that orders have already been received from one-third of the estates in the colony to be thrown out of cultivation after the present crop. But if it is to continue, when is it to cease? It is clear that the immigrants do not necessarily remain on estates to give the benefit of their labour; and if immigration is recommended, in order to place the labour market on a par with that in slave-holding countries, if this is to be accomplished, it will be necessary to mass men together in such bodies, that the pressure of starvation shall act with equal power as the fear of the whip. To reach at this point would require, and in a very short time, thousands upon thousands, in a country like this, with vast tracts of fertile lands uncultivated, unless they be restrained within bounds and kept to their appointed work.

To compete with the slave owner, it is not only cheap but continuous labour which the planter requires, and of which he at present cannot be certain, but which he is obliged to use all methods in endeavours to obtain. There is the great burthen and difficulty which every European has, more or less, from the highest to the lowest, to contend with in the colonies; that though he is obliged to bear with conduct which he would not tolerate in his own country; that though he is suffering continued annoyance from the carelessness, the idleness, and the waste of his property, which he sees ever going on, yet, for the sake of some little peace and quiet, he is obliged almost to cringe to those whose vices he can scarcely endure, and to permit much, in order to save himself from greater loss and discomfort.

I would here call your Lordship's attention to the result of the policy which has been carried on, and how by it the finances of the colony have been reduced; how its means have been consumed in a most extravagant and but very partially successful system of immigration. To this has everything been sacrificed; and for the sake of getting an extended cane cultivation, which is now on the point of being abandoned, all improvements, even the most important, have been neglected. I have on former occasions stated to your Lordship the dearth of education, the scanty means of instruction which the colony affords; the population is annually increasing, the young are daily advancing in numbers, and simultaneously advancing in ignorance and in vice, but I am deprived of means to improve their condition.

The gaol is so crowded that there has been, and is, great fear of serious disease breaking out amongst the prisoners, but the treasury has no funds to spare to increase it.

The hospital (a hired building) is so inconvenient, so ill-arranged, so badly drained, that twice during the year has hospital gangrene shown itself amongst the patients, but the plans which I have ready for a new one cannot be made use of.

The lunatics and the idiots wander at large about the streets, to the annoyance and disgust of all, except when at times they become violent; then, if by chance room may be found either in the gaol or the hospital, or the police station, they are confined. Daily, during the last year, have I desired to commence building only a few strong rooms, in which they might be housed, but the want of funds has stopped me.

I think I have stated enough to satisfy your Lordship that this matter requires consideration, and that the system has been faulty, more especially when I add,

that out of 990 persons convicted of crimes during the year, only 240 were natives of the island.

I have not hesitated to state plainly to your Lordship the faults and failings of the Creole population; it is with great pleasure that I can bear witness to their good qualities, which have been particularly displayed during the present distress. The labourers on estates have worked as usual thereon, though there has been a want of money to pay them regularly, and up to the present time, wages are due on some estates for three and four months.

It has been also very gratifying to me to see the emulation which has been called forth amongst the young, by holding examinations, and by the distribution of a few prizes; and a much greater progress has been made by some during the past year than I had expected, and I feel certain that it only requires the means to diffuse instruction more extensively to cause a rapid and general improvement in the mental, and I hope also in the moral, state of the population. To what pitch of advancement they are capable of attaining, remains still to be proved. They are at present subjects for great anxiety and for great interest.

Under the fostering care of Great Britain, if she will still foster them, I believe that the population of this island may become not only prosperous, but may prove of vast importance in assisting to civilize the fine and extensive continent in its vicinity.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HARRIS.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

MALTA.

(No. 124.) No. 24.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. R. More O'Ferrall to Earl Grey.

Malta, November 20, 1848.
(*Received December* 7, 1848.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the Blue Book of these islands for the year 1847, which closed soon after my arrival.

The financial statement, with the explanatory notes, has been furnished by the Auditor-General, under the following heads:—

Civil Establishment.

The pay and salaries of the persons employed in the several branches of the Civil Service of these islands amounted, on the 31st December, 1847, to the following yearly rates, including for vacant situations, and classed in the order ruling on that day, but since altered, under instructions from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Civil (including 500*l.* transferred for allowance to the Commander of the Forces) .	10,863	2	6
Revenue	4,601	0	0
Judicial (including police and quarantine) .	22,430	3	0
Ecclesiastical	466	15	0
Public instruction	3,902	0	0
Charitable institutions	5,212	0	0
	£47,475	0	6

Of which total, 43,537*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, payable from the general revenues, 2,483*l.* from the registry fees of the Courts of Justice, and 1,225*l.* from the profits and rents of the Monte di Pietà.

Some further services, not to a large amount and chiefly ecclesiastical, are defrayed in the class of allowances; and the above statement is exclusive of any emoluments which are fluctuating in amount.

Compared with the statement made last year, there is an increase of 444*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* This is accounted for by 473*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* on the one hand, for the new appoint-

MALTA.

ment of Private Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to the Governor, diminished on the other by the result of various other changes and arrangements.

An entirely new arrangement of the expense of the Civil Establishments, under instructions recently received from Her Majesty's Treasury, will govern the classification under this head in next year's Report.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross receipts of Revenue during the year have amounted to 108,424*l.* 0*s.* 9½*d.*, deducting from which 4,201*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* for drawbacks, there remains for service a net income of 104,222*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.*, being an increase of 5,158*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.* over the net amount collected in the year 1846. It also exceeds by 1,670*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.* the sum estimated for the same, in June, 1846, founded upon the experience of previous years. The sources of increase over the average are in the import duties, tonnage due and store rent of bonded goods; those which have fallen below the average are the licenses and quarantine dues. The judicial fees, although showing an increase of 284*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* over the receipts of 1846, are still 16*l.* below their estimate; but the principal difference in the comparison of the two years is in the rents of the Land Revenue. These show an augmentation of 3,183*l.* 15*s.* 1¾*d.*, the cause of which is to be sought with reference to the year 1846, as the receipts of 1847 accorded with the estimate, founded upon the actual receipts of the eight years previous. The cause of deficiency in 1846 was explained in last year's Report. The rent-roll of Crown lands has maintained itself, presenting a total of 23,861*l.* per annum. On the 31st December, 1846, it stood at 23,821*l.*

In addition to the revenue collected within the year, a surplus of 3,189*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, remaining from former years, was brought forward in aid of the year's resources.

The expenditure defrayed during the year amounted to 104,562*l.* 7*s.* 8¼*d.*, including 4201*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* paid in drawbacks of revenue. Deducting these there was a net expenditure of 100,360*l.* 16*s.* 5¼*d.* less than the net amount disbursed in 1846.

The greater portion of this decrease is accounted for by 5462*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* less in that branch of expenditure which has hitherto been classed under the head of Extraordinary Contingencies, and which in 1846 included a large outlay on special works, defrayed from the surplus funds of previous years. The total amount under this head in 1847 was 6584*l.* 13*s.* 7½*d.*, of which 2329*l.* 7*s.* 2¾*d.* were provided for in a supplementary estimate, laid before the Council for its sanction in December last. Nearly 2000*l.* of this sum was applied to relieve the distress of the poor, chiefly by employment on the roads, and to the extent of 300*l.* in direct alms.

These extraordinary charges were compensated by various casual savings on the regular branches of expense, principally from vacancies on the establishment in the offices of Governor and Chief Secretary, and by the steam-dredge being lent to the naval department, for which the sum of 1178*l.* was taken in the estimates and not expended. Other excesses, in expenses of usual occurrence, occasioned by the high price of provisions, also found compensation in savings on various branches; so that in the whole a saving of 1414*l.* 3*s.* 7¼*d.* occurred on the estimate of the year. Add to this 1670*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.* for a larger receipt of revenue than the amount estimated, and 1169*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* for the balance left unappropriated on that estimate, and the year will be found to have benefited to the extent of 4253*l.* 13*s.* 4¾*d.* The same result will appear from a different statement, namely,—

				£.	*s.*	*d.*
Gross receipts of revenue				108,424	0	9½
Gross amount expended .	£104,562	7	8¼			
Deduct expenses taken over from the estimates of previous years	1,901	11	4½			
	£102,660	16	3¾			
Add expenses left over for future disbursement . . .	1,509	11	1			
				104,170	7	4¾
Surplus acquired from the year's transactions .				£ 4,253	13	4¾

This increases the available surplus from 1287*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.* remaining at the end of the preceding year to 5541*l.* 5*s.* 7¼*d.* remaining at the end of the year 1847. Add the expenses left over for future disbursement, and the surplus in cash will stand 7050*l.* 16*s.* 8¼*d.*

Public Works.

Besides the ordinary maintenance and repair of the Government buildings lands, streets, roads, moles, aqueducts, cisterns, and sewers; the following sums (omitting fractions) have been expended on special public works:—

£302 in the completion of an additional line of aqueduct from San Giuseppe to Valetta; total cost 4410*l.*, including a supplemental grant of 292*l.*

£462 in the completion of certain special works and services for the supply of fresh water in consequence of the drought of 1846; total expended 2142*l.*

£200 in continuation of the expense of restoring the monuments of St. John's Church.

£172 in completion of a sum of 1656*l.* laid out for cost and repair of furniture for the palace of Valetta, leaving 28*l.* unavailed of from a subsidiary grant of 200*l.* for this service.

£204 in the completion of various substantial repairs in the market-house of Cospicua, and in re-constructing the public drains in its neighbourhood, rendered necessary by the construction of the adjacent new dock by the naval department; total expended, 796*l.*

£1674 in the improvement of certain streets and roads.

£117 in restoring certain public cisterns in the country (other than those provided for in 1846) leaving over for future disbursement a balance of 33*l.*

£88 in commencing the work of converting a stone-quarry at the Lazaretto, into a tank for water, out of a grant of 500*l.* for this object.

£99 in continuing the extension of the breakwater at Gozo.

£85 in providing the streets of Floriana with lamps.

£200 in substantial repairs of the Ospizio, or asylum for the aged and infirm at Floriana.

£128 in enlarging the conservatory of Notarial Archives at Gozo.

£66 in building a guard-room for the marine police.

£39 in fitting up a new guard-room to the great prison.

£1672 in repairing certain roads in Malta and Gozo, which had been damaged by the heavy rains of last winter. This work was undertaken at an earlier period than originally intended, in order to give employment to the poor in a season of distress, occasioned by the high price of bread.

In the estimate for the year 1847, another work was provided for by a grant of 150*l.*, for partly renewing the arches of the lower Barracca; but the erection of a contiguous battery by the ordnance department rendered the postponement of this work necessary, and will probably require that it should be undertaken upon a different plan from the one originally projected.

The only alterations that have taken place in the ordinary works are the following:—

1. The limit for lighting and cleansing the streets has been increased 100*l.*, in order to provide for the lamps newly constructed for lighting the streets of Floriana.

2. In consequence of some unforeseen repairs having become necessary, which could not be postponed without detriment to the buildings, an addition of 194*l.* was made to the sum usually appropriated to the maintenance and necessary repair of the government buildings and lands.

Military.

The expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the military protection of Malta amounted in 1847 to 99,473*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; 6200*l.* of which amount having

MALTA.

been as usual, contributed from the local revenues of the island, namely 1200*l.* in consideration of the augmented strength of the Royal Malta Fencible regiment, to enable it to furnish guards for the coast, and 5000*l.* in aid of the military service of the island generally.

The amount of the military expenditure is 8645*l.* 11*s.* 6¾*d.* more than in 1846.

The amount of bills drawn by the Deputy Commissary-General, on the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the military and naval services of the year, is found from the official return of the Commissary-General, to have been 132,408*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, being 8781*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* less than the amount so drawn for during the preceding year.

Judicial.

The attention of the Council of Government was occupied during a part of the year with the consideration of Mr. Jameson's last report on the proposed code of criminal laws for Malta; and the revision of the various articles of the code, of which that gentleman had recommended the alteration or the suppression.

Crime.

Thirty-three indictments were disposed of during the year in the superior criminal courts of Malta, that is to say, in Her Majesty's Criminal Court and Court of Special Commission, against 41 offenders.

The offences set forth in the said 33 indictments were—

Theft	17
Wounding	4
Breach of quarantine laws	7
Breach of nocturnal precept	2
Libel or contravention of the law relating to the liberty of publishing printed writings	2
Against nature	1
	33

Of the number of offenders 41 were found guilty and sentenced to—

Hard labour	12
Simple imprisonment	6
Fine	14
	32

Of the remaining 9.

Total number of sentenced	32
Acquitted	8
Discharged for want of jurisdiction	1
	41

Ecclesiastical—Education.

Under the heads of Ecclesiastical and Education there is no particular observation to make for the year 1847.

Commerce and Manufactures.

The amount of imports is 448,614*l.* more than in the previous year. On this head it may be remarked that in most articles both of import and export, there is generally an increase observable; but a great part of the remarkable excess in the imports is to be found in the very large quantity of grain and pulse either introduced for consumption or brought here in transit during the year.

The estimated amount of exports is also greatly above that of last year, in fact more than twice as large, exceeding it by the sum of 387,560*l.* A large proportion of this excess is due to the re-exportation of wheat, barley, and Indian corn, for the supply of the United Kingdom and the Mediterranean ports.

The whole excess of exports, however, is not directly traceable to this source. In the article of sail-cloth manufactured in Malta, there is an excess of nearly 74,000*l.* in value over the exports of 1846. This excess, however, is likewise attributable probably to the great resort of vessels, occasioned by the active trade in corn.

The merchant vessels measuring 2528 tons, were built in Malta during the year 1847, five of which were registered according to law, measuring tons, 1270.

Agriculture, and Grants of Land.

From information obtained through the Land Revenue Department, it results that a greater than the usual breadth of land was sown with grain, and a smaller than usual quantity of cotton was grown. The grain crops, and generally speaking, the other agricultural products of the island were moderate in amount and quality; but the high prices of the year made it on the whole a good one for the cultivators, both of Malta and Gozo.

The collector of land revenue reports that 14 small patches of waste ground in Malta, and three in Gozo were granted during the year, the value of which amounted to 23*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* They were as usual given on the application of the proprietors of contiguous lands, to whom alone they could have been of any value, which will explain why the Government in disposing of them did not put them up to public sale.

Population.

The increase of the population beyond the returns of last year, amounts to 1103 individuals; the increase appears to be chiefly in the greater number of Queen's troops and aliens.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. MORE O'FERRALL.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

(No. 31.) No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Her Majesty's LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER in and for the UNITED STATES of the IONIAN ISLANDS to Earl GREY.

Corfu, July 9, 1848.
(*Received July* 31, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the duplicate of the annual finance statement called the "Blue Book," for the year ending the 31st January, 1847, together with the accompanying Report.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SEATON.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Civil Establishment.

The apparent decrease in the expenditure under this head will be accounted for in its proper place, and the explanation will show, that no material change has taken place in the civil establishment of these States since the last return.

It is to be observed that the olive crop, being the staple of Corfu and Paxo, is biennial, and, therefore, that the revenues of alternate years, that is of 1845

IONIAN ISLANDS.

and 1847, are compared in the following statement, but that the expenditure of the two consecutive years, that is 1846 and 1847, are compared:—

	£.
The gross amount of the general revenue for 1845 was	149,242
Local revenues	35,648
	£184,890

	£.
The gross amount of the general revenue for 1847 was	122,893
Of the local revenue	35,225
	£156,118

Showing a decrease in the latter year of 27,772*l.*

The items of general revenue, showing a decrease, are,—

	£.
Customs	6,219
Transit duty	169
Duty on oil	12,313
Duty on currants	6,002
Island wines	87
Grain	240
Stamp duties	1,614

The items showing an increase are,—

Foreign wines and spirits.
Tobacco.
Sale of gunpowder.

As was observed, on a former occasion, the increase in the Customs usually varies with the export duties upon the staple produce of the several islands; the falling off of the revenue, derived from the exportation of oil and currants, will fully account for the decrease in the Customs for the year 1847; indeed, the falling off in all the items of general revenue, showing a decrease, with the exception of grain and stamped paper, may be traced to the same cause.

The deficiency of the grain duty was the natural consequence of higher prices, curtailing, to a certain extent, the use of grain subject to duty.

Although the limited profits of merchants and landed proprietors, which may be expected from the falling off in the exports of the staple produce, must, in some degree, have affected the stamp duties, the decrease is principally caused by the system of district sessions being better understood and developed, and the diminution of business in the tribunals of the town, stamped paper being necessary in the proceedings of the latter, but not required by the former.

The decrease in the revenue, arising from the exportation of oil, is the consequence of a less abundant crop, whereas, the decrease in that derived from the exportation of currants proceeded from a fall in prices, and a want of demand, occasioned by the commercial difficulties experienced throughout Europe, and failures of establishments in countries engrossing great part of the currant trade.

The decrease in the other items, enumerated in the schedule, is unimportant.

The reasons for comparing the general revenue of alternate years render it expedient also to compare the municipal revenue of alternate years, that of 1845 being 35,648*l.*, is therefore compared with that of 1847, being 33,225*l.*, and the result is a decrease of 2423*l.*

The items showing a decrease are,—

Land revenue and licences.
Mole duties, Santa Maura.
Inter Island duties on island wines.
Import duty on cattle.

Export duty on Valonea.
Proportion of Custom duty on imports.
Road duties.

The items showing increase are,—

Sale of municipal lands and houses.
Salines, including salt monopoly.
Shop, tavern, and other licences.
Fines, compositions.
Port duties.
Water-rates, Corfu and Zante.
Export duty on Zante soap.
Incidentals.

The falling off in the amount of the land revenue in some degree.

In the year 1845 the receipts were augmented by the payment of arrears, whereas, in 1847, many of the Government tenants had again fallen into arrear.

In the interval, Government property, it should also be observed, to a considerable amount had been disposed of, in some instances the schools have been located in houses which formerly paid rent.

The falling off of the Inter Island duty on native wines arises from a quantity greater than the demand having been brought into the market during the year 1845.

The consumption of animal food depending always on the means of the population, the inferiority of the oil crop of 1847 to 1845 will sufficiently account for the falling off in the "import duty on cattle," and as the amount appropriated for the construction of roads, consists of a duty of 1½*d.* per cent., upon the importation of cattle, and a duty upon the importation of certain articles, the observations already offered upon the several items apply to this duty in the aggregate.

The observations also upon the Custom import duties, under the head of general revenue, are equally valid when applied to the portion of them granted as a temporary subsidy to the municipal revenues.

The comparative decrease in the revenue, arising from arm licences, mole duties of Santa Maura, and exportation of Valonea, requires no notice.

The increase arising from the salt monopoly is caused, first, by the sale of a large quantity of salt accumulated, which was sent upon speculation to Venice; secondly, by an unusually productive olive crop in the Island of Zante, which occasioned a very large consumption of salt, it being used by the Zantiots in preparing their oil.

To this abundant olive crop may also be attributed the renewed activity in the manufacture and exportation of soap, which caused the duty of 1847 to exceed that of 1845 by 178*l.*

The increase under the head of the item "Incidentals" is made up of 143*l.* paid in by merchants in consideration of law proceedings being staid, and of 85*l.* being the profits of the public baths at Corfu.

There is an inconsiderable increase upon the several items of—

Shop Licences,
Port duties, &c.
Water rates.

Although from the returns stated it is necessary to compare the revenues, whether general or municipal, of alternate years, it is more convenient to compare the expenditure of consecutive years: on the present occasion, therefore, the expenditure of the year 1846 will be compared with that of 1847.

Under the head of general expenditure there has been a

	£.
Decrease of . . .	32,615
An increase of . . .	6,406
Total decrease .	£26,209

The items showing an increase are—

Judicial Establishment.
Contingencies of collecting revenue.
Paper for Stamps.
Contingencies of the General and Local Government.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

The increase in the Judicial Establishment is the salary of an additional minor judge for the island of Cerigo, as provided by Act No. 46 of the present Parliament.

A comparison of the contingencies of collection, &c., for 1846 with those of 1847 leads to no conclusion as to the average annual charge for those services.

In 1846 they were advanced 400*l.* for a large supply of paper for stamps. In 1847 to the extent of 591*l.* for the purchase of two cranes for the Custom House at Corfu.

The increase for the contingencies of the general government is occasioned,

1. By the expenses of the ordinary session of Parliament.

2. By the purchase of a house for the permanent residence of the President of the Senate; and lastly, by the purchase of articles of furniture required for the new prison, and the salaries of the officers of that establishment.

The items showing a decrease are—

Civil establishment.
Education.
Rents of public offices on civil quarters.
Public works.
Packet service.
Military protection.

The decrease in the civil establishment is occasioned by the transfer of the prison establishment to the Local Government, and partly by the profits of the packet establishment, which, as the expenses of that department and the police are deducted from the receipts, have diminished the charge for those services to the amount stated.

The decrease in the charge for education is more apparent than real. In the course of the year 1846 a number of buildings appropriated to the purposes of education were repaired, a charge for which the account for 1847 is free.

The great decrease in the charge for public works is occasioned by the new prison in Corfu having been nearly completed, and requiring only a moderate further outlay to proceed with the surrounding wall, and no expense having been incurred on account of the Mole at Santa Maura.

The decrease in the charge of rents for public offices is caused by the payments being in arrear when the account was made up; and the observations with respect to the decrease in the charge for the civil list will explain the decrease in that for the packet establishment.

The sum of 15,976*l.*, which appears as a diminution of the expenditure for military protection, is the amount of debt to Her Majesty's Government which has accrued during the year, but has been considerably reduced since the accounts were closed.

Municipal Expenditure.

The result of a comparison between the municipal expenditure for 1846 and 1847 is satisfactory, inasmuch as it shows

	£.
An increase of	3,769
And a decrease of . . .	18,296
Total decrease	£14,427

The items showing increase are—

Ground rents.
Prisons, diet, clothing.
Careening dock at Cephalonia.
Moles and harbours.
Hospitals, charities, (not including lunatic asylum.)

The increased expenditure for prisons, &c., is not real.

Up to the month of September, 1846, the charge for this service was borne by the general Government, therefore the few months of the year, during which the charges were placed to the account of the local Governments, have been entered with those of the whole of the financial year 1847; had it been possible to make a fair comparison of the two years the result would have been different.

In the same way the increased expenditure for the careening dock in Cephalonia is only apparent. In 1846 it was defrayed by the general Government,

and in 1847 charged to the municipal funds. The sum charged for moles not forming harbours has been applied to works of great public usefulness carried on in Cephalonia.

The increased charge for the hospitals and charities is principally occasioned by an advance which the Government was obliged to make to the Casa di Ricovero of Corfu, in consequence of a falling off in the voluntary subscriptions by which that establishment was supported.

The items showing decrease are—

Ecclesiastical and municipal buildings.
Contingent expenses of salt monopoly.
Lighting and clearing the streets.
Aqueducts.
Widening the Lefchimo river.
Canal, Santa Maura.
Salaries, (including ecclesiastical establishment.)
Incidentals, (including interest upon loans.)

In 1846 it was necessary to purchase ground for municipal and ecclesiastical buildings,—in 1847 that necessity existed no longer, hence the decrease in the charge for that service.

The small decrease in the charge for lighting and cleaning the streets is the consequence of a more favourable contract.

In the year 1846 a considerable expense was incurred for pipes for the aqueduct in Zante, for repairs to that in Corfu, and for the construction of a large tank in Paxo.

This expenditure was not necessary in 1847.

The works at Lefchimo were suspended during the greater part of the year 1847, and though subsequently renewed, the outlay has been limited to a fixed sum per mensem.

The charge in 1846 for the canal in Santa Maura was greatly increased by the purchase of expensive machinery.

These have been paid for, and are in full operation at present, the principal outlay for this great work is the sum necessary for labour and superintendence.

The decrease in the item of salaries and ecclesiastical establishments is occasioned partly by a decrease in the casualties which, during the year, threw a number of the labourers, injured while employed on public works, for temporary relief, and probably also, by a better system of management.

In 1846 the incidentals were burthened with the purchase of a house in Cephalonia, destined for a public office, no such charge appears in the account of 1847; to this circumstance, and to a reduction in the expenses of the establishment at Castellanus, a saving of 385*l.* has been effected, which appears in the present return.

Military Establishment.

The Ionian States have no military establishment.

By the agreement of the year 1844, with the protecting Government, one-fifth of the net annual general revenue of the United States is paid into the military chest for military protection.

The sum received by the Commissary-General last year on that account amounted to 5441*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* on account of 1846–7, and 3000*l.* on account of 1847–8.

Judicial Establishment.

There is nothing to add to the observations of former years on this subject except that the benefits arising from Circuit District Courts continue to increase.

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

No alteration has taken place in the ecclesiastical establishment since the last return was completed.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

Education.

In the establishments for education in these islands there has been no alteration since the last return. They consist of—

The University . . .	78 students.
College	80 ,,
Seminary	16 ,,

NUMBER of SCHOLARS in the Primary and Secondary Schools of the various Islands.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Corfu	1,359	362	1,721
Cephalonia	1,209	131	1,340
Zante	1,019	140	1,159
Santa Maura	444	51	495
Ithaca	423	60	483
Cerigo	561	84	649
Paxo	263	40	303

Commerce.

The observations of last year continue to be applicable to this period. These islands have already derived benefit from the commercial treaties entered into by the Government of the protecting Sovereign with the several continental powers, and although the advantages from such treaties may have been checked by the recently disturbed state of the affairs of a great part of Europe, there can be no doubt but that when the present disturbances shall subside the commercial importance of these islands will increase.

As a proof of the progress already made I would notice the unlooked for activity with which the island of Ithaca has recently carried on its trade with the Black Sea, and the number of vessels belonging to that island and Cephalonia which have exchanged the Russian flag, under which they formerly sailed, for that of the Ionian government.

I might also add the extension of the operations of the Maritime Assurance Association, established about eight years since in Cepholonia.

Agriculture.

It has frequently been remarked in the island of Corfu that in proportion as the olive-trees are productive, and the oil market favourable, general agriculture is neglected; this has undoubtedly been the case during the present year, but in a less degree than formerly. Improvement has not been encouraged by the proceeds of a productive season, but it has not been arrested, progress has been made, and continues to be made.

Population.

The returns of population received from the several local Governments show an aggregate increase of nearly 5000, but the difficulty of obtaining accurate information on the point, explained in my former reports, renders it impossible to consider the estimate which is the result, more than an approximation. In the year 1844 the returns from Zante showed a decrease in the male population of that island; by the return of the present year, on the contrary, a more than corresponding increase has taken place.

The apparent decrease, I conclude, might be attributed to the calculation having been made at a time when many of the labouring classes were absent in the Morea and other parts of Greece, whither they are accustomed to resort in search of work at certain seasons. In like manner the apparent increase in the present return may be attributed to the annual migration having been suspended, either in consequence of the disturbed state of the kingdom of Greece, or an abundant harvest at Zante during the year 1847.

The measures adopted by the Government for the benefit of the public health appear to be efficacious. The population is increasing, though not in a ratio to require any further remark.

(Signed) SEATON.

SIERRA LEONE.

(No. 88.) No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting-Governor PINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
October 27, 1848.
(*Received December* 6, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1847, together with my report thereon.

Various causes, over which I have had little control, have contributed to delay the transmission of these documents, and among them I may mention the expedition to the Sherboro' country, and the illness from which I in consequence suffered, and also the circumstance that the entire period to which the Blue Book refers, being antecedent to my temporary assumption of the affairs of the Government, embraced many subjects with which I was obliged to familiarize myself by a somewhat laborious and lengthened research.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BENJ. C. PINE,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the Annual BLUE BOOK of SIERRA LEONE for the Year 1847.

IN remarking upon the matter contained under the various heads into which the Blue Book is divided, I shall take the liberty of departing, in some degree, from its arrangement of those heads, for the purpose of bringing together some subjects, which, owing to their kindred nature, it seems desirable to consider as nearly as possible, under one point of view; and I shall also venture to introduce and remark upon one or two subjects, which are not mentioned by name in the Blue Book, but which are naturally suggested by some portion of its contents.

I.—*Taxes.*

The whole of the taxes levied in the colony are imposed by various ordinances of the Governor and Council, of course, confirmed by Her Majesty's Government. These consist of,

1st. Customs duties, which are—

A. An ad-valorem duty of 4 per cent. upon all British and foreign goods imported into the colony. African produce pays no duty.
B. An additional duty of 1*d.* per pound upon all tobacco imported.
C. An additional duty of 2*s.* per gallon on all spirituous liquors imported, with the exception of rum, which pays an additional duty of 1*s.* only.

2nd. Other local taxes, the principal of which are—

A. Market dues, including a tax on cattle slaughtered.
B. A tax on horses and carriages, every horse being taxed 1*l.*, every carriage 2*l.* per annum.
C. Auctioneers' licenses 25*l.* per annum each.
D. Spirit licenses.

Of these imposts the customs duties are by far the most important, with regard to revenue, as will be seen under the next head of this report.

Among the other local taxes, that upon spirit licenses is the most productive; the rest are of little value to the revenue

II.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue of the colony is derived—

1st. From duties on imports.

SIERRA LEONE.

2nd. From other sources; these are—

A. The other local taxes which are mentioned in the preceding section.

B. Rents of factories and other places held by the Crown.

C. Incidental receipts, such as fees on grants of land, fines awarded by courts of law, &c.

The following return exhibits the net revenue of the colony for the years 1837 to 1847, both inclusive, dividing it into the two general heads above mentioned.

Years.	Amount of Customs Duties on Imports, &c.	Amount of Revenue from other Sources, deducting Repayment of Advances and Loans, Receipts in aid of Revenue, Deposits, and the Liberated African Department.	Net Amount of Revenue.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1837	7,720 18 3	2,225 12 6¾	9,946 10 9¾
1838	7,232 12 3¼	2,303 13 0¼	9,536 5 3½
1839	11,005 11 5¾	4,527 17 11¼	15,533 9 5
1840	12,609 13 6	3,992 15 5½	16,602 8 11½
1841	9,071 19 0½	2,065 14 0¼	11,137 13 0¾
1842	7,584 13 3½	2,189 19 3½	9,774 12 7
1843	10,226 18 1½	2,337 12 6¼	12,564 10 7¾
1844	11,032 11 10¾	2,809 19 6¾	13,842 11 5½
1845	16,119 10 9	4,676 3 1	20,795 13 10
1846	13,726 10 7½	2,935 13 7¼	16,662 4 2¾
1847	16,371 16 10½	4,281 7 10½	20,653 4 9

By this return it will be seen, that the revenue of the colony has nearly doubled itself within the last ten years, and that this vast increase is mainly attributable to the increase in the amount received for customs' duties. It will also be observed, that the state of the revenue for 1847 is more satisfactory than that for any preceding year during the period comprised in the return. For although the total amount of revenue for 1845 is slightly above that for 1847, yet the amount of duties on imports for the latter year is greater than that of the former or any preceding year.

The following is a return of the expenditure for the above-mentioned period:—

Years.	Remittances to Agent-General to Pay Pensions and Miscellaneous Expenses incurred in England.	Amount of General Disbursements, exclusive of that Paid from Parliamentary Grant, Liberated African Department, on account of Loans and Deposits.	Net Amount of Disbursements.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1837	416 13 4	7,689 8 10¼	8,106 2 2¼
1838	710 10 0	12,036 13 9½	12,747 3 9½
1839	3,186 2 11½	10,785 6 4¼	13,971 9 3¾
1840	. .	8,697 13 0½	8,697 13 0½
1841	. .	12,663 3 8	12,663 3 8
1842	710 0 0	11,075 17 1½	11,785 17 1½
1843	1,015 0 0	10,862 12 7¾	11,877 12 7¾
1844	1,000 0 0	15,534 19 5	16,534 19 5
1845	500 0 0	21,812 13 0	22,312 13 0
1846	1,000 0 0	15,759 18 4½	16,759 18 4½
1847	5,000 0 0	20,405 7 3¾	25,405 7 3¾

By this return it will be seen that the expenditure of the colony has greatly increased during the period mentioned therein. This great increase is owing to the circumstance that the expense of maintaining several departments of the public service, which were formerly defrayed out of the revenue of the United Kingdom, has been thrown upon the funds of the colony. A comparison of this return with that of the revenue will also show, that for the year 1847 the expenditure has exceeded the revenue by 4752*l.* 2*s.* 6¾*d.*, and that it has exceeded the expenditure for 1846, or any former year. This circumstance is attributable, partly to the increase in the amount expended upon the public

works, as will be shown under that head in this report, and partly to the large remittances which have been made to the Agent-General; and which left in his hands at the close of the year the unusually large balance in favour of the colony of 2022*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* This sum will of course diminish the amount which it will be necessary to remit to that gentleman during the present year.

III.—*Imports and Exports.*

The value of the imports in 1847 was 116,689*l.*; that of the articles imported in 1846, 105,368*l.*

This increase is chiefly owing to the increase in the importation of spirits; upon manufactured goods, hardware, and provisions. There appears, by the customs' returns, to be a slight decrease in 1847. The imports consist of goods imported in British vessels from Great Britain and from foreign States, and in goods imported in foreign vessels from foreign States. The several amounts of imports under their heads are shown in the following table:—

Vessels.	Country.	1847
		£.
British . . .	Great Britain . .	89,236
	Foreign States . .	4,087
Foreign . . .	United States . .	14,963
	Other Foreign States .	8,481

The imports from Great Britain consist of India goods, cotton manufactured goods, hardware, spirits, ale, wine, &c.

The commerce between the colony and the United States has greatly increased of late years, owing partly to the increased demand for American goods, partly for consumption in the colony itself, and partly to carry on the extensive commerce which has lately sprung up between the colony and the neighbouring countries, in consequence of the increased demand in Europe for ground-nuts and oil seeds.

In former years the imports from the United States consisted almost entirely of tobacco and lumber; but of late a considerable quantity of American cotton goods has been imported, those articles being in much request among the natives on account of their thickness and similitude to their own rude fabrics. None of the finer kinds of cotton goods are imported from the United States.

The foreign imports are principally from the Hanse Towns. There have lately also been several importations from Portugal of the common kinds of earthenware of that country, which seem to be prized by the people of the colony.

The number of vessels which arrived during 1847 was 185; 32 being from Great Britain, 10 from the United States, and 143 from other places; among the last are included, of course, prizes and coasting vessels.

The value of the exports in 1847, as shown by the custom returns, was 100,878*l.*; and in 1846 it was 125,818*l.*

The exports consist of teak timber, ground-nuts, camwood, ginger, pepper, ivory, gold, &c.; of these, the two first are the most important.

The timber is felled in the countries in the vicinity of the colony; the little that remains in the colony grows in situations too far removed from the water-side to bear the expense of shipping.

The ground-nut has of late years become an important article of commerce; from this nut an oil is expressed which is used in manufactures and machinery, and also, to a limited extent, for burning. Owing to the number of rail-roads which within the last few years have been opened throughout Europe, and to the admirable adaptation of this oil for lubricating and cleaning heavy machinery, it has been brought into extensive demand. The plant is grown in abundance in the neighbourhood of the colony, and its production is daily increasing to meet the increasing demand.

The value of the ground-nuts exported in 1847, as shown by the customs' records, was 21,336*l.*; but a large quantity of this article has been shipped direct from the rivers in the neighbourhood, and of course does not appear in the customs' returns. Benni seed or sesame, which produces a very fine oil, is also beginning to be grown.

SIERRA LEONE.

The customs' return does not include the gold exported, which, not being subject to duty in England, does not in general appear in the manifest of the vessel in which it is shipped. The amount exported n 1847 may be estimated at from 16,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* A small proportion only of the exports is the produce of the colony itself; by far the greater part being the growth of the neighbouring countries. The ginger, pepper, and arrowroot, however, which are exported, are raised in the colony, and their production is rapidly increasing.

The import trade used formerly to be in the hands of a few European merchants, but of late years it has been largely shared by native merchants; many of them liberated Africans.

The state of the revenue and navigation laws has, in my opinion, tended to check the expansion of the commerce of the colony. Its principal value, in a commercial point of view, is merely as a secure depôt for the deposit of goods with which the trade with the surrounding country is to be carried on, and its situation would undoubtedly render it the emporium of the commerce of a great part of the western coast of Africa. This opinion is borne out by the circumstance that the gold trade is fast leaving its ancient channels, the Gambia, Nunez, and other places, and flowing into Sierra Leone; and that the countries contiguous to the colony are capable of producing large quantities of articles of great commercial value.

Any prohibitions or high duties must necessarily impede such a commerce ast his.

In regard to the revenue laws, the British Possessions Acts, by which the trade of the colonies is regulated, do not directly apply to the colonies on the coast of Africa, but a clause is therein inserted, giving the Queen in Council the power to extend them, or a portion of them, to those possessions: no such Order in Council has been issued since 1829; so that the trade of the colony is regulated by the Possessions Acts then in force, with their long table of prohibited articles, many of the most important of which, such as rum, sugar, provisions, have been removed from that category, as to all other colonies by the more liberal spirit of modern legislation.

The operation of the navigation laws is also injurious to the commerce of the colony. Several examples of their effect readily present themselves. French and Belgian vessels coming to the colony for ground-nuts cannot bring blue bafts and other articles much in demand; they are therefore obliged to come out in ballast, or land their cargoes in the neighbouring rivers, at considerable risk. African produce also is prevented by these laws from being imported into the colony in foreign ships, to the great detriment of its trade; indeed, if these laws were enforced to the letter, the colony could not receive its necessary supplies of provisions, the greater part of which are brought from the neighbouring countries in canoes, not belonging to the colony; but the inconvenience—I had almost said the absurdity—of such a prohibition has prevented any attempts to enforce it.

IV.—*Public Works.*

The amount expended on public works during the year 1847 is 6075*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*, whilst that expended for the same purpose during 1846 was 3295*l.* 11*s.* 7¾*d.* There has thus been an excess of expenditure under this head in 1847, as compared with the preceding year, of 2779*l.* 16*s.* 10¾*d.* The following table shows upon what public works this excess of expenditure has been incurred:—

	1846			1847		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Old Market . . .	610	9	9¼	1,582	3	7
Kilsy Hospital . .	96	17	7	469	5	9½
Government House .	273	3	9¼	553	1	7
Wilberforce House .	.	.		225	16	6
Estimates generally .	628	15	0	1,651	18	11½
Streets	298	8	8¾	590	5	11

The edifice erected upon the foundations of the old market-place has been completed. It is a capacious building. The under part of it is used as a bonding store, and the upper portions of it are divided into three large com-

partments, two of which were used as offices for the Collector of Customs and the clerks, and the other was to be used as a public room. I have deemed it proper to alter this arrangement; one only of the compartments is now used as a custom-house, and another is set apart as a police office, in lieu of the miserable and leaky building formerly devoted to that purpose.

The large amount appearing under the item of "Estimates generally," is to be partly explained by the circumstance, that a very large quantity of American timber was purchased towards the close of last year, and which has, or will be employed this year.

I should observe, under this head, that although the roads in the neighbourhood of Freetown, to the extent of two or three miles, are excellent, there is a want of good roads in other parts of the colony.

The nature of the country undoubtedly presents difficulties to the formation of carriage-roads; but still engineering skill might, to a great extent, overcome them.

V.—*Manufactures.*

Although there are no works in the colony to which the title of manufactories, as the term is commonly used, can be given, there are several branches of industry which deserve to be mentioned under this head.

Boat-building is carried on to a considerable extent; and, among others, the whole of the fishing-boats in the colony mentioned and enumerated in another section of this report, were constructed by native hands. They are carvel built, and excellent sea-boats. Several small decked vessels have lately also been built in the colony.

The art of carpentering is practised with some degree of success in the construction of the wood-work of buildings and of common pieces of furniture; but the finer and nicer branches of the art has not yet been mastered.

Masonry and building have made some progress; good and substantial houses and warehouses are seen scattered over the town, and some of the public buildings, and especially the churches, as I shall hereafter remark, are very well built edifices.

The trade of leather-dressing is exercised, to a small extent, by one or two persons in Freetown; shoes are made with the leather, and appear to wear pretty well.

Under this head I should not omit to mention the manufacture of oil which is carried on in the colony.

The oil from the ground-nut is expressed in considerable quantities by means of an oil-press belonging to Mr. R. A. Oldfield, worked by hand.

This oil meets with good sale in the colony, and is also used by nearly all the men-of-war upon the coast, especially by the steamers, as it appears to be well adapted for heavy machinery.

In the western district of the colony an oil is expressed from a nut called the Coundee-nut; it is used for burning as a light, for lubricating and cleaning iron tools and utensils, and also as a purgative medicine. It is much cheaper than ground-nutoil.

VI.—*Coins and Exchanges.*

The currency of the colony consists, 1st. of British coins, which pass at their full value.

2nd. Of threepenny and three-halfpenny pieces, which have been sent from England as colonial coins.

3rd. Of Spanish, Mexican, and South American doubloons and dollars, and French twenty-franc gold and five-franc silver pieces, all of which are in circulation in the colony at a valuation fixed by Her Majesty's proclamation. The doubloon is valued at 3*l.* 4*s.*; the dollar at 4*s.* 2*d.*; the twenty-franc piece at 15*s.* 10*d.*, and the five-franc piece at 3*s.* 10½*d.*

Within the last few years the Spanish, Mexican, and South American coins have been gradually disappearing from circulation, and now they are scarcely to be met with in any quantities. One of the causes of this circumstance I apprehend to be, that the Americans, who have lately imported largely into the colony the produce and manufactures of their own country, prefer frequently receiving doubloons and dollars in exchange, rather than run the risk of the uncertain market which the United States affords for African produce; more especially as these coins at their present value in the colony can, after paying

SIERRA LEONE.

freight, &c., be imported into the United States without loss. For although the dollar of Spain and her former colonies is, in common currency, only equivalent to the States dollar, yet, as I am informed, its intrinsic value being greater, it can be advantageously disposed of at the Mint as bullion.

Another cause of these coins being carried away, is the rule observed by the Commissary of only giving Government bills at stated periods, so that parties are occasionally compelled to take coins from the colony when they would take bills if they could obtain them, whenever they require them.

VII.—*Fisheries.*

Fish are very plentiful in the neighbourhood of the colony. The principal fish are enumerated in the Blue Book, page .

Although there are no public fisheries in the colony, a large number of its people are engaged in fishing both with the seine and the circular casting net. In the neighbourhood of Freetown there are 30 boats and 50 canoes employed in this occupation; and, as far as I can ascertain, there are about 40 more boats and canoes similarly employed at Kent and York, thus making an aggregate of about 120 fishing-boats and canoes in the whole colony; each of these vessels generally carries seven hands, so that we may conclude that there are about 840 persons engaged in the fishing trade. The people of the colony consume a considerable quantity of fish with their rice and foofoo; but very large quantities of it, after being smoked or partially cooked and slightly salted, are packed and sent into the interior of the country, between which and the colony it forms a somewhat important article of commerce. Some notion may be formed of the profitable nature of the fishing-trade to those engaged in it, from the pretty-well ascertained fact, that the owner of a single boat can make of clear profit as much as 10*l.* to 15*l.* per month.

VIII.—*Agriculture.*

The Peninsula of Sierra Leone is separated from the main land by a narrow isthmus of about a mile and a half in breadth.

The estuary of the Sierra Leone river and the Bunce river form its northern and eastern boundaries, whilst the waters of the Atlantic wash its southern and western shores.

It is traversed in almost every direction by ranges of rocky and precipitous hills, varying in height from 500 to 2600 feet above the level of the sea. The ravines which intersect the hills, as they approach the sea and the estuary, expand into valleys of inconsiderable extent. Between Freetown and Waterloo, on the eastern side of the colony, the mountains recede from the estuary for distances, varying from half a mile to three miles, and leave a belt of level ground of about 24 miles in length. Between Waterloo and Hastings, and especially in the neighbourhood of the former place, the country presents a plain surface of some extent; with these exceptions there is little level ground in the colony.

In the last-mentioned districts the soil is good, but in the other level ground the ferruginous rock of which the Peninsula is composed, is found but a few inches below the surface. It in some places constitutes its surface.

The colony then, upon the whole, is not very favourable to agriculture; but still, under the influence of a tropical sun and abundance of rain, it would not, under proper cultivation, be unproductive.

The hills, sterile as they appear, are capable of growing an excellent species of coffee, and the level ground will yield ginger, pepper, arrow-root, Indian corn, cassada, and other ordinary tropical productions; but the successful cultivation of the sugar-cane, even in the most favourable parts of the colony, I consider to be chimerical; although there are regions in the neighbourhood in which it might be raised in abundance. Still, upon the whole, it cannot be denied that the soil of the colony presents obstacles calculated to dishearten the inexperienced African agriculturist; and the more so as from his rocky hills he descries with envy the rich level land of the countries surrounding the colony, stretched out before him.

The science of agriculture in the colony is in its rudest state, the principal, almost the only implement employed is the hoe; the use of the spade, except in the gardens of a few Europeans, is unknown.

The process of cultivation is generally as follows:—The farmer, after clearing

the ground by fire, digs, or rather scratches it with his hoe, and plants it. After he has gathered his crop he abandons that spot of ground and proceeds to another, upon which he bestows the same species of culture. In populous districts, however, where vacant land is not so easy to be obtained, he permits the land he has cultivated to lie fallow for one or two years, and then returns to it.

Even under this primitive mode of cultivation, ginger, pepper, arrow-root, Indian corn, cassada, and yams, are produced in considerable quantities.

There are two or three small coffee plantations in the colony belonging to European residents, their culture is, however, greatly neglected, and they consequently produce little; but what they do yield is of a very excellent quality, and renders it a matter of regret that more attention is not paid to this article.

The proportion of land under cultivation, as stated in the Blue Book, is 32,854 acres. This must, however, be regarded as a mere approximation, as owing to the shifting mode of culture here described, and to the want of a professional survey, it is impossible to be ascertained with precision.

IX.—*Prices of Produce and Wages of Labour.*

The prices of most articles are stated at page 180 of the Blue Book.

In regard to the wages of labour, there is, I observe, a mistake in the Blue Book, in the statement that the price of predial labour is 9*d.* per diem. This may be the wages of persons other than mechanics or agricultural labourers, who are hired by the day; but predial or farm labourers can readily be hired for 10*s.* 6*d.* per month.

The following list will show the wages of the different kinds of labour:—

Domestic servants 17*s.* 4*d.* per mensem.
Predial ,, 10*s.* 6*d.* ,,
Mechanics and headsmen 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* per diem.
Labourers other than shown 6*d.* to 9*d.* ,,

The price of labour has for some years past been rising. This circumstance is by some attributed entirely to emigration, which, although it has removed few persons from the body of the population, has prevented a large number of persons, brought hither in slave ships, from being thrown upon the colony as labourers. I am, however, disposed partly to trace the cause of the increased value of labour to the greater demand for labour consequent upon the improved state of the commerce of the colony.

X.—*Fruits and Esculents.*

I regret that a want of botanical knowledge will prevent me from furnishing any satisfactory information as to the vegetable productions of the colony; but some account of the fruits and esculents which flourish within its limits may not be without interest; I have therefore given lists of them, distinguishing such as are of indigenous growth from such as have been introduced into the colony from the West Indies or other quarters. This arrangement will at the same time show the progress of our community in horticultural pursuits.

1. *Indigenous Fruits.*

Banana.
Cocoa Nut.
Orange.
Pine Apple.
Guava.
Pomegranate.
Lime.
Papau.
African Plum.

2. *Fruits that have been introduced.*

Mango.
Shaddock.
Avocado Pear.
Custard Apple.
Sour Sop.
Granadilla.
Tamarind.
Mammee Apple.
Water Melon.
Rose Apple.
Bread Fruit.
Almond.
Date.
Bread Nut.
Barbadoes Cherry.
Grapes.

3. *Indigenous Esculents, &c.*

Yam.	Okro.
Plantain.	Pumpkin.
Indian Corn.	Cassada.
Sweet Potatoe.	Spinach.

4. *Esculents, &c., which have been introduced.*

French Beans.	Lettuce.
Cucumbers.	Raddishes.
Peas.	Cabbage.

Many of the fruits mentioned in list 2, such as the tamarind, mango, sour sop, were introduced some years ago, and are now extremely plentiful in the colony; others have been imported at a later period, and are only to be met with in the gardens of Government officers and others.

The introduction of several of the choicer species of fruits is due to the intercourse which has of late years arisen between the West Indies and the colony in consequence of emigration.

The esculents enumerated in list 4 have for the most part been introduced from England; but they thrive well in the colony, especially French beans and cabbage, which are tolerably abundant.

XI.—*Form of Government.*

The government, as settled by the charter, resides in the Governor, and the Board of the Governor and Council.

The executive portion of the government is vested in the Governor, whose powers are defined and regulated by the charter and the royal instructions under the sign manual.

The legislative part of the government resides in the Board of the Governor and Council. It is composed of seven or more members. The Chief Justice, the Queen's Advocate, and the Colonial Secretary are ex-officio members of the Council, the other members are appointed by the Crown, generally on the recommendation of the Governor, from among the most influential and respectable persons in the colony.

The powers of the Council are, to make laws and ordinances for the regulation of the affairs of the colony, and incidentally to control, in some degree, the expenditure of the colony.

The Council sits with closed doors, and its members are sworn to secrecy.

XII.—*Administration of Justice.*

The Courts in the colony for the administration of justice are,—

1. The Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol delivery. This tribunal is constituted by the charter of the colony: its judges are the Chief Justice and the Members of Council, who are in this capacity styled Commissioners. The Court is, however, constituted by the presence of one Member of Council with the Chief Justice.

The Court possesses in the colony the same jurisdiction as a Criminal Court of Assize in England. The proceedings are conducted as nearly as possible after the English model, except that the Queen's Advocate conducts the prosecutions as public prosecutor.

The indictments, however, are presented by a grand jury as in England.

2. The Court constituted under the Royal Commission for the trial of offences committed upon the high seas and other places out of the Queen's dominions. Its judges are the Governor, the Chief Justice, the Members of Council, and the senior naval officer present in the colony.

3. The Court of the Recorder of Freetown. The judges of the Court are the Chief Justice and two such Members of the Council as the Governor may from time to time appoint; they usually hold office for about a-year, when they are relieved by the appointment of two other Members of Council. They are called Assistant Judges, and receive no salary. The jurisdiction of the Court extends to all common law civil actions which are beyond the jurisdiction of the Small Debt Court mentioned below. Whether this Court has the jurisdiction possessed by the Queen's Bench in England, as to criminal matters,

and issue writs of mandamus and quo warranto, may be doubted, notwithstanding the opinion in the affirmative of the late able Chief Justice Rankin. The charter would appear to give it nearly the same jurisdiction as that of the Common Pleas in England. It has, however, repeatedly exercised the jurisdiction of a Court of Exchequer as to debts due to the Crown, and it seems to be entitled to that jurisdiction *ex necessitate*, since, otherwise the Crown would in many cases be without a means of enforcing its claims.

The process and pleadings used in the Court are as nearly as possible the same as those used in the superior Courts of law in England. They are scarcely adapted to the circumstances of the colony. A local ordinance has passed the second reading to define the jurisdiction of this Court, and to give the judge the power to remodel the system of practice and pleading.

4. The Court of Chancery. This tribunal is presided over by the Governor, who is Chancellor ex-officio. It has the same jurisdiction within the colony which the Court of Chancery possesses in England. The process and pleadings adopted in the Court are nearly the same as those used in England. Owing to the cumbersome and expensive nature of its proceedings, the Court is seldom resorted to by suitors, although there not unfrequently arise in the colony cases in which the interference of a Court of Equity would be very desirable. The circumstance that the judge of the Court (the Governor) is not in general qualified to decide points of law, forms another obstacle to proceeding in this Court.

5. The Court of the Ordinary has jurisdiction as to probate of wills, letters of administration, marriage licences, and has also the superintendence of the collecting and winding up of the estates of intestate persons and others, by virtue of the ordinance passed last year " for the protection of unrepresented estates." The Governor is ordinary ex-officio, and he formerly exercised the functions of Judge of the Court, but by an ordinance passed in 1847 he has been relieved of those duties, which are transferred to the Chief Justice for the time being.

The proceedings of the Court are similar to those used in an Ecclesiastical Court in England and ought to be simplified.

6. The Court of Vice-Admiralty has similar jurisdiction to that possessed by such Courts in the West Indies. A large portion of its business consists in adjudicating upon certain vessels engaged in the slave trade. The following classes of vessels are subject to its jurisdiction:—

1st. British vessels, under 5 Geo. IV. cap. 114.

2nd. Brazilian vessels, under Vic. cap. 122.

3rd. Vessels which have no papers to show that they are entitled to any national flag, under 2 and 3 Vic. cap. 73.

There is a registrar attached to the Court. The proceedings and fees are regulated by the instructions issued under the authority of statute 2nd Wm. IV. cap. 51.

7. The Police Court, which is now presided over by a stipendiary magistrate appointed from England, with a fixed salary of 500*l*. The duties and powers of this Court are nearly identical with those of similar tribunals in England.

8. The Small Debt Court. This Court is presided over by the stipendiary magistrate, assisted by unpaid Commissioners, appointed for a limited period by the Governor. It possesses jurisdiction to decide upon pleas of debt when the amount sought to be recovered does not exceed 10*l*.

XIII.—*Legislation.*

The only ordinances which have been passed, during 1847, are—

1st. An ordinance to provide for the protection and administration of unrepresented estates.

2nd. An ordinance to constitute the Chief Justice judge of the Court of the Ordinary.

3rd. An ordinance to amend an ordinance for improving the police of Freetown.

4th. The usual annual ordinance to provide for the support of the establishment of the colony.

The object of the first of these ordinances is to provide for the protection, first, of estates of deceased persons who may leave no representatives within the colony; secondly, of estates of living persons who may be absent from the colony without having an agent therein. Both classes of estates are to be

SIERRA LEONE.

placed under the care of an officer called the Receiver of Unrepresented Estates. Those of the first class he is to wind up and administer according to the provisions of the ordinance; with those of the second class he is to interfere no further than to provide for their due protection, until they are claimed by the owner or his representative.

If the provisions of this ordinance be carried into effect by a person duly qualified to act as protector, it will be of incalculable benefit, not only to individuals but to the commerce of the colony, by putting an end to that iniquitous system of plundering, under pretence of administering the estates of deceased persons, which threw disgrace upon the colony, and destroyed the confidence of the home merchant in trusting his property in a community where such enormities were permitted.

The intention of the second ordinance is to transfer from the Governor to the Chief Justice the decision of the cases which occur in the Court of the Ordinary.

The two remaining ordinances require no remark.

XIV.—*Climate.*

The comparative healthiness which the colony had enjoyed for some years previously to 1847 had begun to excite hopes that some permanent improvement had taken place in its climate.

The fearful epidemic however, in the forms of yellow fever and of malignant remittent fever which visited the colony during that year, has shown that such hopes were delusive, and that the settlement still merits the fatal celebrity which it has acquired.

In the rainy season of that year 11 European residents were carried off by yellow fever, 6 by remittent fever, and 6 by other diseases, no doubt partly aggravated if not induced by climatorial influence.

The causes which produce these dreadful visitations are still, to a great extent, hidden in obscurity; but some observations which were made during the late epidemic appear to me to throw a partial light upon the subject.

1st. The first case of yellow fever occurred on the 3rd of July. The deaths from yellow fever were—

In July . . .	7
August . .	3
September . .	1
Total . .	11

From the 28th of May to the 24th of June, a period of 28 days, the fall of rain was 13·86 inches. From the 25th of June to the 4th of August, a period of 41 days, the fall of rain was only 9·38 inches. It is during the latter period that most of the cases of yellow fever occurred.

From the 5th to the 25th of August there fell 16·59 inches of rain. From the 26th to the 31st of the same month 1·10 inches only. During the former period only two deaths occurred from yellow fever, one being a case of relapse. During the latter short period one death occurred on shore and several among sailors on board of ships.

From the 1st to the 14th of September there was 11·92 inches of rain, and from the 15th to the 21st only 1·61 inches. During the latter period the last reported case of yellow fever occurred and proved fatal.

The difference of temperature between the above-mentioned four months in 1847 and the corresponding ones in the year 1848 is so small as scarcely to deserve attention.

		1847.	1848.
The mean temperature of June was		77·08	77·50
„ „	July	75·63	75·48
„ „	August	74·55	75·35
„ „	September	75·08	75·35

The moisture of the atmosphere, too, in each year, presents very little difference. The dew-point was in—

	1847.	1848.
June	71·70	72·63
July	70·47	70·83
August	69·77	71·63
September . . .	71·70	72·17

The portion of sky overcast by clouds was nearly the same in both years. Supposing the whole sky divided into 100 parts, there was obscured by cloud of these parts in

	1847.	1848.
June	76	78
July	85	84
August	88	86
September . . .	84	86

These conditions of the atmosphere are so alike in both years that little can be ascribed to them in the production of the yellow fever in 1847.

Its great producing cause seems to have been the extreme scantiness of the rain during the greater part of that period, in which it manifested itself.

During the wet season of this year, on the contrary, the rain has fallen abundantly and regularly. In this period only two white residents have died, and these not of fever or any diseases peculiar to the climate.

The following table shows the fall of rain during the above-mentioned four months in 1847 and 1848 respectively:—

	1847.	1848.
June	13·21	10·73
July	6·94	26·18
August	18 74	22·46
September . . .	18·17	42·40

The following is a table of the number of days on which rain fell in those months, excluding those on which there were slight showers only, or less than ·10 inch in 24 hours:—

	1847.	1848.
June	17	19
July	12	24
August	21	23
September . . .	20	26

In the suburbs on the south-west of Freetown lies a locality nearly covered with huts called the grass-field. It is a bed of rock full of large holes and fissures in which the water lodges, becomes putrid, and throws up an exhalation, which in the mornings and evenings may be seen hanging over the spot like a gauze veil.

In the rainy season the wind blows from the south-west, and of course carries this exhalation towards the body of Freetown. A part of the town is sheltered from its influence by that spur of Tower Hill, upon which stands the Government-house, but another part is within its range. During the last epidemic it was observed and pointed out by Mr. Lawson, Staff Surgeon and Principal Medical Officer, that a large number of the persons seized with the fever resided in the last-named portions of the town, and that most Europeans who lived within its limits were at one time or another in this season afflicted with fever or some form of disease generally supposed by medical men to be produced by exposure to marshy miasmata.

A consideration of these circumstances lead to the conjecture that although the state of the weather in seasons when the rain falls in small quantities at a time, is the main cause of those periodical epidemics, and that it is therefore beyond the power of man wholly to avert them, yet that the operation of this cause may in some measure be weakened by a proper attention to drainage.

As Mr. Lawson had frequently expressed his opinion that the draining of the above-mentioned locality would be of essential service to the salubrity of the town, I requested that gentleman, with the assistance of the colonial surveyors, to have the goodness to survey the place and report upon the practicability of the measure he proposed. That report is subjoined in an Appendix hereto, and will, I humbly think, be perused with interest by his Lordship the Secretary of State.

Whilst upon the subject of the climate, I would offer an observation as to the classes of persons best adapted to withstand its influence. In this respect the negro undoubtedly holds the first rank; but it may be a question of greater

SIERRA LEONE.

difficulty than is generally supposed to determine whether upon the whole persons of colour are better able to bear up against the effects of the climate, than persons of pure European blood; on the one hand there can be little doubt that the latter upon their first arrival in the colony are in greater danger than the former of losing their lives by the remittent fever, but when once they have got over that trial, they seem generally, provided they are temperate in their habits, to resist the climatorial influence better than the coloured people. I have remarked that the latter class of persons in the Colonial Service are, as a body, more frequently upon the sick list than their European brother officers.

For the information contained in this section in regard to the epidemic of 1847, and to the atmospheric phenomena of that year, I am indebted to Mr. Lawson.

XV.—*Population.*

The total population of this colony, according to the Census for 1847, is 45,006, which is an increase of about 2000 as compared with 1846. But, owing to the imperfect manner in which the Census is taken, its returns cannot be altogether depended upon.

The following table, taken from the Census return, shows the different classes of which the population is composed:—

Europeans	95
Maroons	460
Nova Scotia settlers	568
American black people from Liberia	90
West Indies	104
Liberated Africans	40,026
Mandingo Sousoos and Foulahs	1,074
Sherboros and others	1,530
Kroomen	730
Aliens and transient strangers, about	1,000

Owing to the circumstance that, in the return of the Census, under the head of liberated Africans, not only persons actually liberated from slavery, but also their descendants are included, it is impossible to state with accuracy what proportion these two classes bear to each other. I am, however, of opinion that considerably more than half the persons mentioned under this head were born in the colony. It is also impossible, although it would be very interesting, to ascertain the relative numbers of the various tribes or nations into which the liberated Africans are divided. By far the largest part of them are the Akoos. They are a very industrious and enterprising people, and their exertions have materially tended to the advancement of the prosperity of the colony. Several among their number have amassed considerable wealth. They are, moreover, a very orderly people, and exhibit great respect for constituted authority.

The next tribe in point of number to the Akoos is that of the Eboes, who are also an industrious people, whilst their energies can be directed to trade, but their inclination does not prompt them to devote themselves to agricultural pursuits: several persons among them have also acquired considerable property. They also, in general, display a respect for the authority of Government.

The other tribes are the Kusoos, Papaws, Calabars, Congoes, Mokos, Houssas, and others; their numbers, however, bear but a small proportion to the two first-mentioned tribes.

It would be unjust towards the liberated Africans to withhold from them my testimony to the orderly and peaceable manner in which they conduct themselves in the colony, and to the zeal and alacrity which the more influential among them have, upon many occasions, displayed in lending support to the Government when for any purpose it was required. This conduct is the more remarkable when we consider that they are composed of tribes, many of which, in their own countries, bore towards each other intense hatred and animosity; and that they have been subjected to all the moral degradation which slavery brings in its train.

XVI.—*Education.*

The total number of children who attended school in 1847 was 6032, which, compared with the number attending school in the preceding year, shows a diminution of 1649. This diminution is principally in the number of children

attending the Government schools, which is much less than in the preceding year, and the number attending Wesleyan schools, which is also less than in 1846. There is, on the other hand, an increase in the number of scholars in the Church Missionary schools in 1847 over the number in 1846. This decrease in the number of children in the Government schools may be accounted for by the fact that a large number of liberated African children, who were at school in 1846, have been since removed and apprenticed, and their room has not since been supplied by newly-emancipated children.

Some account of the systems of education adopted in these various schools may not be without interest.

1st. *The Government Schools.*—Bell's and Lancaster's systems are those professedly adopted in these schools. The instruction is deplorably defective, consisting of little more than the teaching the children to read and write, without understanding the meaning of the words which they employ. The teachers are generally inadequate to the task of rational instruction.

2nd. *The Church Missionary Day-schools.*—The plan of education adopted in these schools appears to me very superior to that pursued in the preceding class of schools. It embraces, besides reading and writing, geography, mental arithmetic, and Biblical history; and throughout the teaching there is some demand made upon the reason as well as upon the memory of the child.

3rd. *The Wesleyan Schools.*—The system adopted in these schools is that of the British and Foreign School Society. It consists of instruction in English grammar, arithmetic, geography, &c.

4th. *The Grammar School.*—This institution was established a few years since by the Church Missionary Society, principally for the purpose of affording to the children of persons of some property in the colony an education of a higher character than that given in the ordinary schools. It is under the able superintendence of the Rev. T. Peyton, a clergyman of the Church Missionary Society.

The course of education pursued in this school consists of instruction in the English, Latin, and Greek languages, arithmetic, the elements of mathematics, and natural philosophy. I have been present at several of the periodical examinations of the boys, and have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the creditable manner in which they acquitted themselves.

It may, as remarked by the late Governor Fergusson in his Report on the Blue Book for 1845, be taken as no unfair criterion of the position in the social scale at which the people here have arrived, that such an establishment is at length acknowledged to have become necessary.

5th. *The Fourah Bay Institution,* the object of which is to educate a certain number of native young men for the Christian ministry, in order to enable them to proceed as missionaries into the interior of the country. The course of study embraces, besides Divinity, Greek, general history, geometry, algebra, geography, English composition, and music. The president of the institution is the Rev. Edward Jones, under whose efficient tuition it has made great progress, and several of its students have, I believe, passed very creditable examinations before the Bishop of London previously to ordination.

6th. *The Wesleyan Institution.*—The objects of this establishment are similar to those of the preceding one, and it is, I believe, very well conducted.

7th. There are a good many other schools in the colony belonging to the other sects of Christians. They in general adopt, I believe, Bell's system of instruction. The Mahometans have also schools, and appear to take great pains in instructing their young in reading the Koran in Arabic.

XVII.—*Crime.*

Number of persons convicted during 1846 and 1847 respectively, are,—

	1846	1847
For murder . .	2	0
For other felonies . .	49	84
For misdemeanors . .	4	2

These numbers are larger than they ought to be, considering the amount of the population. A great majority of the felonies are cases of larceny, a species of offence which has of late years been on the increase; and I regret to say that the greater part of the offenders are not driven to crime by the pressure of want, but are systematic thieves. The number of such persons in the community is not, however, so large as might, from the number of convictions, be

SIERRA LEONE.

supposed, as the same individuals are over and over again brought before the Court.

The two cases of murder which occurred in 1846 were committed by Spaniards belonging to a slave vessel.

The revival of corporal punishment, which took place at the end of 1847, will, I have no doubt, check the progress of crime; indeed, a marked diminution is already perceptible, and the Report on the Blue Book for this year upon this head will, I think, be more satisfactory.

XVIII.—*Religion.*

The religious denominations existing in the colony are the Church of England, Wesleyan Methodists, Huntingtonian, Baptist, and one or two other sects which have seceded from the Wesleyans.

The proportion of the population adhering to these several persuasions, as stated in the Blue Book, are as follows:—

Church of England .	6547	Baptists, probably about	200
Wesleyan . . .	4730	Other sects. . .	2191
Huntingtonian . .	1178		

These returns, however, cannot be depended upon, as it is very difficult to procure correct information upon the subject.

In the last Report of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, the total number of persons attending public worship is stated to be upwards of 7000; this, however, includes the children attending schools, and it is possible that the return furnished to the Secretary for the Blue Book may exclude the latter class, and thus the discrepancy may, perhaps, be accounted for. From all the information I can gather upon the subject, I am of opinion that the total number of persons who attend some kind of Christian worship is not less than 20,000.

The only church belonging to the Government is that of St. George in Freetown, at which the Governor and the other public functionaries generally attend. The service is extremely well performed. Some portions of the Liturgy are chaunted by children attending the school, in a very creditable manner. There is, however, no organ, a circumstance much to be regretted. The colonial chaplain, who is at present the Rev. T. E. Poole, officiates at this church. He has in addition to perform Divine service at the gaol, and to attend to the ordinary clerical duties within the parish of St. George, which includes the whole of Freetown and its suburbs. He is remunerated by a salary of 500*l.* per annum paid out of the funds of the colonial Government.

The Church Missionary Society supplies all the other episcopal clergymen, nine in number. It has churches in almost every important village in the colony. These are built of stone, and are generally very creditable erections; indeed some of them are equal to the ordinary run of country churches in England.

The clergymen belonging to this Society are as a whole a well-educated body of men, and well adapted to their peculiar vocation. Some of them are possessed of talents and learning which would command respect even in the Church at home. The efforts of the Church Missionary Society have been, upon the whole, very successful, and the colony is under deep obligations to it for its exertions in the cause of religion and education.

The Wesleyan Mission has four ministers in the colony besides several native lay preachers. They possess 15 chapels, seven in Freetown, the others in various villages about the colony. The members sent from England are generally zealous and excellent men and have undoubtedly done a vast deal of good.

There are at least 30 chapels belonging to the other sects of Christians. Their ministers are persons of colour, engaged in some secular occupations; two of the most esteemed of these are pilots. I feel great pleasure in stating that the clergymen and ministers of these several denominations generally manifest towards each other the most friendly and Christianlike feelings.

This view of the religious denominations in the colony would be incomplete if I neglected to give some account of that unhappy portion of our population, who have not yet embraced the Christian doctrine. These are either Mahomedans or Pagans. The Mahomedans residing in the colony are in number about 2000. A large number of these are undoubtedly Mandingoes, Sousoos, and other people from the adjacent country who have settled in the colony; but many of them are liberated Africans, principally of the Akoo tribe, a part

of whom have in their own country been converted to that religion by Foulah or Mandingo priests. The Mahomedans generally reside together in the suburbs of the town, and, except in the way of trade, hold little intercourse with the other people of the colony.

What number of Pagans there may be in the colony it is difficult to ascertain. It has been shown that the total population of the colony is about 45,000, and that the number of persons attending Christian and Mahomedan worship is about 23,000; but it would be unfair to infer that the whole of the remainder of the people are heathens, as there are in this, as in other communities, a number of persons nominally Christians, who do not attend any church. From all the inquiries, however, which I have made upon the point, I am led to conclude the number of pagans in the colony cannot be less than 12,000 to 15,000.

They are of course divided into various persuasions.

Among them the worshippers of thunder and lightning are remarkable. They adore these phenomena as direct emanations of Deity, and, during the storms which at certain seasons disturb the tropical night, the stillness which prevails in the intervals between the peals of thunder is broken by the wild chants with which these mistaken people celebrate the honours of their god. The followers of this superstition are principally Akoos, a portion of which tribe are addicted to it in their own country; though the majority of them in the colony have been converted to Christianity, not a few persons in the community, and some of them professing Christianity, believe that these thunder worshippers, and indeed the Akoos generally, hold some mysterious communion with the lightning, by which they are enabled to direct its course against their enemies; and, upon a recent occasion, when the house of a Maroon was struck by the fluid, and the man himself killed on the spot, I heard several persons attributing the disaster to "those bad Akoo men." Some also of the Pagan inhabitants worship serpents and other reptiles, whom they feed with the greatest care.

There are, moreover, some who openly worship the Devil. They convince themselves of the necessity of this practice by the same wild arguments which have satisfied savages following a similar persuasion in other parts of the world. Although they believe in the existence of a God, the author of all good, they also conceive that he is not omnipotent, but that his authority is disputed and controlled by the Spirit of Evil. Persuaded that God, prompted by the beneficence of His nature, will bestow every blessing in his power without solicitation, their only anxiety is to appease, by prayer and sacrifices, the wrath of the enemy of mankind.

A belief in the powers of magic and witchcraft, and in the efficacy of charms and philtres, is prevalent among nearly the whole of the Pagan and Mahomedan people, and is not wholly eradicated from the minds of a large number of persons who profess Christianity.

It may at first view be a matter of surprise that, after all the exertions, pains, and expense, which have been employed in civilizing the colony and converting its inhabitants to Christianity, so considerable a number of mistaken worshippers should exist within its limits; but let it be remembered that a large portion of the people have but recently arrived in the colony in slave ships, bringing with them the superstitions of their own land; that every new importation of such persons not only directly adds to the heathen part of the community, but that their intercourse with the resident population checks the progress of missionary labour, by reviving in the minds of partial converts to Christianity the recollection and, with it, the love of that form of superstition which was instilled into them in their childhood.

It should also be borne in mind that the settlement is a mere speck of earth on the edge of this vast continent, and that it is bordered upon by numerous tribes of heathen people, many of whom, allured by the security which our laws and institutions afford, perpetually come to settle within our boundaries.

If, then, all these circumstances be considered, so far from its seeming strange that so many Pagans and Mahomedans should exist in the colony, it will furnish a subject of wonder that their number is not more considerable.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) BENJ. C. PINE,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

SIERRA LEONE.

Encl. in No. 26.

Enclosure in No. 26.

APPENDIX TO REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1847.

Sierra Leone, October 25, 1848.

SIR,

WE have the honour to report, for the information of his Honour the Acting Governor, that, in compliance with the instructions conveyed in the letter, No. 159, dated 2nd June, 1848, from your office, appointing us members of a commission for the purpose of inspecting the Grassfield, and reporting upon the best means which can be employed, at a small expense, of draining that locality, we have minutely examined that portion of the town, and now submit the following remarks thereon for his Honour's consideration:—

That part of Freetown, called the Grassfield, lies, as shown in the accompanying plan, between the Saunders' Brook and Alligator Brook, the former to the east and the latter to the west and south-west.

Taking a line from Saunders' Brook south-westward, the surface gradually sinks until it reach the blue line in the plan, which lies about midway between the brooks, and from that it again rises a little until it approach the Alligator Brook, within a short distance from which point it again sinks towards that stream, or in some places remains nearly level.

Following the blue line in the centre of the plan, from its origin at Campbell-street downwards to Kroo-town Road, there is a nearly regular fall of 46½ feet, and the general inclination of the ground to the right and left of that line for a considerable distance is equally marked and in the same direction. The highest ground between Saunders' Brook and the blue line is from three to five feet higher than the surface in the corresponding parts of that line, and to the westward the difference of level between the highest ground and lowest corresponding points in the course of the line varies from two to nine feet.

Whatever soil is found over the Grassfield has been carefully collected by the inhabitants, on lots surrounding their houses, and the streets consequently display everywhere the bare rock, the irregularities and hollows on the surface of which retain large quantities of water after rain, and collect all the mud and dirt produced by the gradual disintegration of the rock.

In consequence of the very gradual inclination, on either side, towards the central blue line in the plan, and the irregularities of the surface, the water, though it runs towards this line from either side, does not find a ready or complete vent, but accumulates in large pools in every direction, and in many cases the inhabitants require to dig a trench round their huts, to reduce, as much as they can, the inconvenience of having them flooded after heavy rain, while the rest of the lot, from the want of proper drainage, remains in such a wet state as to interfere most materially with its productiveness, and to add much to the discomfort of the inhabitants.

On the accompanying plan the extent of surface over which the water lies is coloured blue, and from the beginning to the end of the rainy season, this space always contains much stagnant water. When at any time the fall of rain becomes scanty, and the pools begin to diminish by evaporation, a very intense malaria arises from these localities, exercising a most injurious influence over the health of all who are within the range of the miasmata emanating from them. This was remarkably displayed in the summer of 1847, in which the rains were scanty and irregular, and when nearly every white person who lived to the westward of Pademba-road and Walpole-street suffered, at one time or another, from some form of malarious disease, and there is every reason to believe that many cases of sickness which occur to persons living in other parts of the town may be referred to the same source.

It is, obviously, a matter of great importance to reduce this source of disease to the utmost, by adopting such a system of drainage as will enable the water to run off readily from the hollows on the surface and neighbouring grounds, instead of, as at present, allowing it to remain until gradually dissipated by evaporation.

To effect this desirable end, we are of opinion that a main drain should be cut from Kroo town road backwards to Campbell-street, along the lowest level, of sufficient dimensions and depth to afford a free course to the water, and to give sufficient fall to admit of a series of small side drains, extending along the streets on either side, discharging themselves fully into it. This main drain, to accomplish these objects, we conceive would require to be 2½ feet wide, and from 2 feet to 2½ feet deep, according to the inequalities of the surface. The course of the drain is indicated by a strong red line in the accompanying plan, and it deviates but little from that actually taken by the water at present.

To afford a free discharge to the water brought down by the main drain, it will be necessary to form a culvert across the Kroo-town road of greater dimensions than that at present there, and it would add to the freedom of the discharge if it were made directly opposite the termination of the drain.

The system of side drains which it is proposed to make would, of course, be much smaller in size than the main. A width of 15 inches, it appears to us, would meet every object; the depth would be variable, but in every case should be sufficient to run off the water from the bottom of every hollow or pool in the neighbourhood. We think, from looking at the levels and the nature of the surface, that an average depth of 15 inches would answer every purpose.

Taking the size of the drains at that stated above, the probable expense in completing them we have estimated as below.

	£.	s.	d.
To 800 yards run of main drain, at 5*s.* per yard . .	200	0	0
To 6512 yards run of surface drain, at 2*s.* 6*d.*, and levelling streets	814	0	0
5 per cent., contingencies	50	14	0
	£1064	14	0

In conclusion, we strongly recommend for his Honour's consideration that, should the views we have developed be approved of, that the main drain should be commenced as early as possible, as a free escape for the surface water in that direction would be of great immediate advantage to the inhabitants of the Grassfield.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) Rob. Lawson, Staff Surgeon, 1st Class, P. M. O.
Gabriel Fleck, Colonial Surveyor and Engineer.
Geo. W. Nicol, 1st Writer.
Edward Bage, Assistant Colonial Surveyor and Engineer.

William Fergusson, Esq., Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

(No. 113.) No. 27.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut-Governor Winniett to Earl Grey.

My Lord, Cape Coast Castle, December 31, 1847.
(*Received March* 2, 1848.)

I beg to forward to your Lordship the "Blue Book" in duplicate, for the year 1847, accompanied by my own Report.

In this statement, I have confined my remarks principally to those subjects which I conceived to be of much public interest, and respecting which, I have had an opportunity to become more intimately acquainted with.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. WINNIETT, Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

SPECIAL REPORT upon the BLUE BOOK.

Population.

During the space of the last 16 years, a most extraordinary change has taken place in the aspect of the population of the various districts which have enjoyed the advantages of being within the range of British jurisdiction, Its numerical increase has been very great, as may be daily proved by the numerous new villages which are rising on every hand. It may not be saying too much, to state that, during the time above-mentioned, the villages in the Fantee conntry, and among the Assins, have increased on an average about 15 per cent. The character of the native dwellings is also greatly improved; and, consequently, many of the towns and villages wear an aspect of permanency and durability, which seem altogether new. Associated with this interesting advancement in civilization, is another gratifying feature, namely, a taste for articles of furniture of European manufacture, and European clothing; the change which has taken place in this respect, during the last 11 years, is almost incredible. It is to be hoped, that the advantages of the fostering care of the British Government, and the onward progress of the Christian religion, for a few years to come, will give to the native population of the Gold Coast, &c., an aspect somewhat similar to that which is now exhibited in the West India islands.

No census of the native population of this colony, has ever been attempted to be taken, from certain data; however, it may be safely assumed, that the aggregate number of the population of these districts which acknowledge, and are amenable to the jurisdiction of this Government, is not less than 275,000 scattered over a territory of about 6000 square miles. This population have no manufactures (worthy of the name) existing amongst them, but may be divided into three classes, viz.: agriculturists, traders, and fishermen.

The number of Whites at present in the colony, is 40, of whom there are seven females.

Agriculture.

During the course of the last nine years, the cultivation of coffee has been introduced into the colony, and the results prove, that, by a careful selection of soils and situations, and proper attention to the best modes of culture, this

GOLD COAST.

article of commerce may be grown to almost any extent; and the flavour of the coffee grown in this colony seems to be quite equal to that which is grown in the islands of Princes' and St. Thomas. The general system of agriculture now existing among the natives of this colony seems to be the same as that which has existed for ages past, but the increase of population in the Fantee country, seems to have led to the cultivation of much larger tracts of land than those which were formerly occupied for agricultural purposes. The soils of the Gold Coast seem to be much more adapted for the cultivation of the coffee plant and other small shrubs, such as spices, &c., than for the sugar-cane or rice; for those latter tropical plants, the land seems to be too dry, and of too great an altitude. The sugar-cane is cultivated by the natives for purely private purposes, but it does not seem likely that the soils would be fit for its successful cultivatio non an extensive scale.

The Palm tree (*elais Guineensio,*) grows spontaneously throughout the whole of this part of Western Africa; and is, to the natives, a fruitful source of wealth. It is probable, that much might be done in inproving the Palm-oil trade by constraining and influencing the natives to cultivate the Palm tree.

From the method of cropping adopted by the natives in this colony, it is difficult to form even an approximate estimate of the average quantity of land under cultivation. There are few or no regularly cleared farms or plantations (save for plantains), the ground being never effectively cleared of the roots of the trees or brushwood; but, after one crop, the bush is again allowed to grow for several years.

The quantity of land generally under cultivation in any one year, may be stated as follows:—28,000 acres producing 1,100,000 bushels of Maize; 24,000 acres producing Yams; 20,000 acres producing Cassava; and 15,000 acres producing Plantains. These products are of excellent quality. The average price of Maize may be quoted at 1*s.* 2*d.* per bushel, and the average prices of Yams, Cassava, and Plantains at 1*d.* per pound. The number of horned cattle in the colony is about 800; of sheep, 2000; and of goats, 1200.

Public Works.

The principal thing on this head, affecting the interests of the colony, is easy communication betwixt towns and villages by good roads. During the course of the past five or six years, a little has been done in the colony in this branch of public improvement, but it has been nothing equal to, or at all corresponding with, the important claims of such a question. The roads are, generally speaking, exceedingly bad, and they are a great drawback to the advancement of civilization.

The importance of the occupancy of various stations in the colony by small detachments of troops seems to be almost incalculable. There is, perhaps, not a single circumstance of any importance connected with either the domestic polity of the various tribes of natives or with those extraneous civil, commercial, and religious questions which bear upon the welfare of the colony, which does not owe something to the moral influence produced by this kind of military occupation. Could all those forts which were occupied in various parts of the Gold Coast, &c., in by-gone days, be restored to a good state of repair and again judiciously occupied, the results would, in all probability, be of the highest importance in aiding the advancement of the moral regeneration of this part of Africa.

For the buildings now in progress under the heads of Public Works, I beg to refer your Lordship to the Blue Book.

Education.

Connected with the general branches of education, *model schools*, for the instruction and training of boys in the knowledge of various useful mechanical arts, are most important desiderata. At present there is no employment for educated boys, except as teachers in the schools, and clerks in government and mercantile establishments, and hence the results of education, pleasing as they may be, are not so healthy, vigorous, and permanent as they would be if they were associated with various branches of useful mechanical knowledge. These desiderata are greatly worthy of the attention of an enlightened Government. For a lengthened, and I trust a satisfactory report of schools on the Gold Coast, see Blue Book.

Exchanges, Monies, Weights, and Measures.

Course of Exchange.—Gold dust being the commercial currency of the colony (gold being valued at 4*l.* currency per ounce); and the net value of an ounce of gold dust remitted to England being on an average 3*l.* 12*s* sterling per ounce, after deducting the charges for freight, insurance, commission, &c., the course of exchange is generally quoted at 11·1 premium for bills on England at three days' sight, that is to say, a bill upon England for 90*l.* sterling will purchase here 25 ounces of gold, equal to 100*l.* currency. There being but few British coins in circulation, bills granted in exchange for them are negotiated at par.

Coins.—Gold dust is the principal currency of the colony, and all large payments are made in it. The coins in circulation are British gold, silver, and copper coins, Spanish and South American doubloons, dollars, and half dollars, and a few French five-franc pieces.

The amount of Coins in Circulation.—All commercial payments being (with occasional exceptions) made in gold dust, the amount of coins in circulation is generally very small. The average amount in circulation during the year 1847, may be stated as follows:—

British coins	£1500
Spanish and South American coins . .	2000
Coins of other nations	200

Accounts kept in.—Merchants accounts are kept in pounds, shillings, and pence. Accounts between merchants and native traders are kept in ounces, ackies, and takus. The commercial currency of the colony is gold dust, gold being valued at 4*l.* per ounce.

Weights.—The weight in use for every article, save gold and silver, are the avoirdupois weights of England. For gold and silver, troy weights are used.

Measures.—The measures of length, surface, and volume in use, are the imperial standard measures of length, surface, and volume of England. The measures of capacity used are the old English wine gallon of 231 cubic inches, with their respective sub-divisions.

Gaols and Prisons.

The gaols at Cape Coast are situated within the walls of the Castle, and are sufficiently large to contain three times the number of prisoners that are generally confined in them.

There is great attention paid to the comforts, and especially to the cleanliness of the prisoners. The gaol being so immediately under my own observation, I can at once detect any irregularities should they occur.

The gaols at Dixcove, Annamboe, and Accra, are also situated within the walls of the fort, and the same attention paid to their comforts as at Cape Coast. In visiting those places, I always question the prisoners as to their comforts, and if they have any complaints to make, and I have not in any one instance found occasion to alter the arrangements of the officers in charge of the establishment.

Duties.

Permanent revenue for the Gold Coast is derived from a duty of half per cent. *ad valorem* on all imports, and a Government grant of 4000*l.* a-year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The income for the year 1847 amounted to 5603*l.*; the disbursements, 4617*l.*; being an increase of 727*l.* over the previous year's receipts.

General Remarks.

The general aspect of the colony is gratifying; the various tribes under the influence of the Government seem to be in a good state of subordination; and the aspect of other contiguous tribes and kingdoms are decided by legitimate effects; and the Christian religion, on which all the principles of good government are founded, is steadily and surely making its way among the people.

H. WINNIETT, Lieut.-Governor.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.
No. 28.

(No. 120.) No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. A. FITZROY to Earl GREY.

Government House, Sydney,
May 20, 1848.
(*Received, October* 31, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the year ended on the 31st December, 1847; and in compliance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 101, of 5th May, 1842, I proceed to offer such remarks upon the condition of the colony as may be interesting to your Lordship.

Taxes, Duties, &c.—(pp. 1 to 15.)

The total revenue derived from the duties on spirits imported as well as made in the colony was

pp. 66 and 68.

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	86,037	9	3
„ 1847	98,424	12	4

showing an increase of 12,387*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, which is attributed to the increase of population and the high rate of wages.

The *ad valorem* duties produced

	£.	s.	d.
In the year 1846 . . .	27,779	15	4
„ 1847 . . .	33,553	4	1

The duties on tobacco produced

	£.	s.	d.
In the year 1846 . . .	53,400	12	1
„ 1847 . . .	54,786	2	7

The wharfage and harbour duties amounted in 1847 to 471*4l.* 1*s.*

Post-office—(pp. 42 to 44.)

The revenue produced by the Post-office and the expenditure stand thus:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
In 1846 . . .	17,924	13	3	16,165	15	7
„ 1847 . . .	19,214	10	10	17,029	9	0

An Act of Council (11 Vic., No. 18) was passed on 17th September, 1847, levying an assessment on stock beyond the settled districts, and came into operation on 1st January, 1848. There was, therefore, no revenue from this source for the year 1847, except 1195*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, the arrears of previous years.

The fees on licenses to occupy Crown lands and to cut timber, which are part of the Crown revenue, produced

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	39,724	18	1
„ 1847	43,820	3	7

Fees of Office—(pp. 15 to 36.)

The revenue derived from fees of office was

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	10,931	18	10
„ 1847	11,976	8	1

The fees taken in all the Courts of Justice, which amounted

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846 to	4,530	0	6
were in 1847 . . .	7,917	0	5

Revenue and Expenditure—(pp. 41 to 105.)

The accounts of the colony are made up in accordance with the principles laid down in the Constitutional Act, 5 and 6 Vic., c. 76.

The Ordinary Revenue, that is to say, the revenue derived from taxes, duties, rates, and imposts, was

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	270,550	9	9
„ 1847	275,343	0	11

therefore the revenue of 1847 exceeded that of the previous year by 4792*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, in addition to 2054*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* recovered from sureties of Mr. J. E. Manning, and adjustment of advances to Colonial Agent-general, making in the whole the Ordinary Revenue to amount to 277,397*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure chargeable on the Ordinary Revenue was—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	281,164	6	11
And in 1847	302,286	17	7
Therefore the expenditure of 1847 exceeded that of the previous year by . . .	£21,122	10	8
And the expenditure of 1847 being . .	302,286	17	7
And the ordinary revenue being . . .	277,397	5	6
The expenditure exceeded the revenue by .	£24,889	12	1

Your Lordship will perceive that there is a discreprancy in the amount of the Ordinary Revenue for 1846, as stated in the Blue Book of that year and the Blue Book now forwarded. This is occasioned by certain advances made from the General or Ordinary Revenue having been placed under that head in the comparative statement for 1846–47.

Heretofore it has been the practice to insert these advances with other temporary transactions; but it is now considered preferable to keep all payments from the General Revenue under that head.

The amounts which occasion the apparent difference in 1846 are—

	£.	s.	d.
1st. Remittances in advance to the Colonial Agent-General	14,987	2	10
2nd. Advances towards the erection of the new military barracks	12,000	0	0
	26,987	2	10
Blue Book 1846	254,177	4	1
Blue Book 1847	£281,164	6	11

Under the new arrangement a similar discrepancy will not again occur.

Crown Revenue—(pp. 58 to 60).

The following is a statement of the Crown Revenue for 1847:—

Territorial.

	£.	s.	d.
Land sold	59,112	4	8
Quit-rents	14,739	1	0
Depasturing licences	42,749	13	11
Timber ditto	744	0	0
Rents, leases, &c., within the boundaries .	5,477	2	0
	122,822	1	7
Casual Revenue	21	12	7
Special receipts	1,640	14	0
Grand total . .	£124,484	8	2

Under sanction of your Lordship's Despatch No. 11, of 6th August, 1846, the Casual Revenue or droits of the Crown were carried in 1847 to the credit of the General Revenue; but the sum of 21*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, above specified, con-

NEW SOUTH WALES.

sisted of collections at Port Phillip in 1846, which were not, however, credited in Sydney until 1847.

The charges on the same revenue for 1847 were—

	£.	s.	d.
Survey and management	22,753	5	3
Immigration and quarantine	1,049	7	11
Interest on debentures	5,191	4	4
Aborigines	2,250	4	4
Miscellaneous	3,094	14	6
Revenue returned	2,396	15	2
Debentures paid off	83,900	0	0
	£120,635	11	6

There is therefore a balance on the Crown Revenue, after all the outstanding debentures have been paid off, amounting to 3848*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Convict Expenditure—(pp. 115 and 116.)

The expenditure under this head continues to decrease. It was—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	27,713	4	9
„ 1847	25,517	17	8

The number of convicts in the colony, according to the Blue Book for 1847 on 31st December of that year, was 6664, being a decrease on the previous year of 4607.

Local Revenues—(pp. 117 to 121.)

The local revenues of the city of Sydney amounted in 1847 to 11,409*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, those of the town of Melbourne 4,908*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

The district councils are in the same state of abeyance and inaction as in my last report.

Military Expenditure—(pp. 125 and 126.)

P. 130.

No expense has been incurred by the colony on account of the military defences, and the only military expenditure is that of the mounted police, amounting to 6476*l.* 10*s.* 6½*d.* The amount paid for gratuities to officers and soldiers out of colonial funds for guarding convicts employed on public works for the colony was, in 1847, 730*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

Legislation—(pp. 151 to 162.)

The reports on the Acts passed by the Legislative Council in 1847 were forwarded in my Despatch, No. 241, of 16th December, 1847.

Councils and Assemblies—(pp. 163 to 168.)

No observation under this head seems necessary.

Civil Establishment—(pp. 169 to 382.)

This head appears to require no report.

Security for discharging Duties—(pp. 385 to 394.)

This head appears to require no report.

Pensions—(pp. 395 to 399.)

The pension list shows a decrease in 1847. The pensions payable in the colony were—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846	664	2	6
„ 1847	576	15	0

Recapitulation of the Establishment—(pp. 400 to 404.)

No observation seems necessary.

Foreign Consuls—(pp. 405 and 406.)

There are only two Consuls in the colony, French and American.

Population—(pp. 407 to 468.)

The last census was taken on the 2d March, 1846; and the general summary which was appended to the Blue Book of 1846 is again included in the Blue Book of 1847, and will be found at page 411. The population was shown at that date to be 189,609 souls, exclusive of Port Essington.

Ecclesiastical Returns—(pp. 469 to 494).

The number of clergymen receiving salaries from the Government in the year 1847 was 134, being 7 less than in the previous year.

The amount secured for public worship under Schedule C of the Act, 5 and 6 Vict., c. 76, is distributed under the arrangement sanctioned by the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 19, of 17th February 1846.

Education—(pp. 495 to 508).

In the session of 1847 a sum of 2000*l.* was placed on the estimates and voted by the Council for the introduction of the Irish National System of Education into the colony.

For the purpose of carrying out this system a Board has been appointed, which is presided over by the Attorney-General. This Board have proposed to establish a normal school in Sydney with a view to providing teachers for the country districts, and have sent home for a schoolmaster and mistress, and for books of instruction. Further than this no steps have as yet been taken; but it is expected that the system will come into operation early in the ensuing year; and I am convinced it is the only one which can be carried out with beneficial effect among the scattered population of the country districts; and a further sum of 2000*l.* has been placed on the estimates for 1848. The number of other schools is stated, at page 507, to be 436, being 42 more than there were in 1846; the number of scholars in 1847 was 21,621.

Exchanges, Monies, &c.—(pp. 509 to 516).

The coin in the colony was—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
In 1846	847,316	0	0
„ 1847	654,186	0	11

The paper money in circulation was—

In 1846	£210,219
„ 1847	240,670

The exchange varied from par to 3 per cent. premium.

Imports and Exports—(pp. 529 to 538).

The imports (Port Phillip included) were—

In 1846. . . .	£1,630,522
„ 1847. . . .	1,982,023

The exports (Port Phillip included) were—

In 1846. . . .	£1,487,258
„ 1847. . .	1,870,046

The export of wool from the whole colony was—

	lbs.	Value.
In 1846 . .	16,479,520 . .	£1,019,985
„ 1847 . .	22,379,722 . .	1,272,118

The value of tallow exported was—

In 1846	£28,107
„ 1847 . .	108,186

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The increase in the quantity of tallow exported during the past year) out the remarks under this head in my last Report.

Agriculture—(p. 539).

The returns of produce and live stock will be found at p. 540; but it is doubtful whether the agricultural tables can be depended upon for accuracy.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries—(pp. 543 to 546).

The manufacture of tweed cloth is progressively improving. Indications of copper of a valuable description have been discovered in various parts of the colony. The Molong mine continues to be worked with a fair prospect of success; but the want of miners has hitherto prevented other mines from being opened and worked.

Grants of Land—(pp. 547 to 553).

No observation seems necessary. An improvement is shown in the amount received for the sale of lands:—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1846 it was . .	28,255	0	0
In 1847 . . .	62,081	7	10

Gaols and Prisoners—(pp. 555 to 594).

The following returns of the comparative state of crime in the colony may be interesting:—

Convictions in the Supreme Court.

	1846	1847
Murder	7	10
Other felonies	173	166
Misdemeanors	44	33

Convictions in Courts of Quarter Sessions.

	1846	1847
Felonies	350	281
Misdemeanors	77	61
Criminals executed	1	6
Civil cases tried in Supreme Court .	197	181
Of which the number of undefended cases	26	29

Miscellaneous—(pp. 595 to 625).

A variety of returns is given at the end of the Blue Book, as printed for the Legislative Council. A table of the contents will be found at p. 598; and they disclose a great body of useful statistical information.

In conclusion, I would beg to observe, that although much property has changed hands during the course of the year,—and I regret to have to report that many of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants have suffered severely from pecuniary losses and the depreciated value of landed property within the settled districts,—I see no reason to report less favourably of the general prosperity of the colony than I did in my Report on the Blue Book for 1846; and it is to be expected, that with the renewal of immigration and the decrease of the price of labour, that prosperity will not be diminished.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES A. FITZROY.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

STATISTICS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1838—1847.

CONTENTS.

		PAGE
1	Coin	211
2	Population	211
3	Agriculture—Population	212
4	Vineyards	213
5	Live Stock	213
6	Tallow and Lard made in the Colony	214
7	Imports, Value of	215
8	Exports, Value of	215
9	Imports and Exports, Value of	215
10	Import of Grain	216
11	Export of Grain	216
12	Import of Butter and Cheese	216
13	Export of Butter and Cheese	217
14	Import of Live Stock	217
15	Export of Live Stock	217
16	Import of Salt Meat	218
17	Export of Salt Meat	218
18	Import of Hides and Leather	218
19	Export of Hides and Leather	219
20	Export of Wool	219
21	Export of Tallow	219
22	Export of Bark	219
23	Import of Timber	220
24	Export of Timber	220
25	Export of Oil	220
26	Shipping Inwards	221
27	Shipping Outwards	221
28	Vessels Registered	221
29	Land Sales	222
30	Auction Duty	222
31	Mortgages on Land — Sydney	222
32	Mortgages on Land — Port Phillip	223
33	Preferable Liens on Wool — Sydney	223
34	Mortgages on Live Stock — Port Phillip	223
35	Imports, Articles, Quantity, and Value — Sydney	224
36	Imports, Articles, Quantity, and Value — Port Phillip	226
37	Exports, Articles, Quantity, and Value — Sydney	227
38	Exports, Articles, Quantity, and Value — Newcastle	229
39	Exports, Articles, Quantity, and Value — Port Phillip	229
40	Vessels employed in the Fisheries	230
41	Manufactures — Woollens	230
42	Manufactures — Soap	230
43	Manufactures — Tobacco	230
44	Manufactures — Refined Sugar	231

No. 1.

COIN.

RETURN of Coin in the Colonial Treasury, the Military Chest, and the several Banks, on the 31st December, in each Year, from 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Colonial Treasury.	Military Chest.	Banks.	Totals.	Increase on previous Year.	Decrease on previous Year.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1838	163,000 0 0	. .	357,127 11 5	520,127 11 5	92,694 19 11	
1839	124,100 0 0	. .	391,969 16 7	516,069 16 7	. .	4,057 14 10
1840	38,900 0 0	49,151 18 9	309,529 15 0	397,581 13 9	. .	118,488 2 10
1841	25,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	427,624 17 9	462,624 17 9	65,043 4 0	
1842	. .	32,409 14 5	442,980 4 3	475,389 18 8	12,765 0 11	
1843	. .	3,000 0 0	420,972 0 5	423,972 0 5	. .	51,417 18 3
1844	. .	11,000 0 0	548,923 0 1	559,923 0 1	135,950 19 8	
1845	20,000 0 0	54,315 17 4	780,850 5 10	855,166 3 2	295,243 3 1	
1846	25,000 0 0	121,173 19 6	681,132 19 10	827,306 19 4	. .	27,859 3 10
1847	30,600 0 0	30,056 19 7	573,529 1 4	634,186 0 11	. .	193,120 18 5

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

POPULATION—1847.

RETURN of the Increase and Decrease of the Population of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from 1st January to 31st December, 1847; and of the Total Number on the latter date.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	General Tota
Increase by Immigration	5,377	1,186	6,563	
Births	4,548	4,362	8,910	
Total Increase	9,925	5,548		15,473
Decrease by Deaths	1,650	1,044	2,694	
Departure	3,312	1,162	4,474	
Total Decrease	4,962	2,206		7,168
Net Increase	4,963	3,342		8,305
Population on 31st Dec. 1846	118,927	77,777		196,704
Population on 31st Dec. 1847	123,890	81,119		205,009

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 3.

AGRICULTURE—POPULATION.

RETURN showing the quantity of Land in Cultivation (exclusive of Gardens and Orchards), and the Population of the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	AGRICULTURE. Crops.									
	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Millet.	Potatoes.	Tobacco	Sown Grasses, Oats, and Barley for Hay.	Total Number of Acres in Crop.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
1838	48,060	25,043	2,922	3,767	429	39	1,788	925	9,939	92,912
1839	48,401	22,026	3,490	6,793	483	46	1,115	424	12,534	95,312
1840	74,133	24,966	5,144	5,453	609	115	2,594	381	12,721	126,116
1841	58,605	25,004	5,423	5,892	495	47	4,027	380	15,257	115,130
1842	65,188	27,324	5,320	4,467	486	99	5,174	224	18,592	126,874
1843	78,083	29,061	5,727	4,537	514	42	5,872	655	21,162	145,653
1844	81,903	20,798	7,236	4,336	359	43	6,783	871	21,766	144,095
1845	87,894	25,372	10,455	6,109	330	36	5,101	483	27,551	163,331
1846	88,910	31,773	9,215	9,390	177	82	5,537	228	37,221	182,533
1847	81,044	27,240	7,178	10,201	310	83	5,550	67	33,111	164,784

Year.	AGRICULTURE—*continued.* Produce.								
	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Millet.	Potatoes.	Tobacco.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.
1838	469,140	556,268	32,103	13,416	4,878	353	3,496	4,952	6,960
1839	805,140	525,507	66,033	27,788	7,008	283	2,601	2,509	25,923
1840	1,116,814	777,947	105,389	66,020	8,863	3,338	11,050	4,300	21,329
1841	832,776	503,803	90,172	62,704	6,507	1,072	11,141	2,642	17,175
1842	854,432	590,134	88,767	84,321	4,451	1,201	12,561	2,014	18,622
1843	1,000,225	719,358	95,658	92,268	5,145	410	16,392	6,098	27,774
1844	1,312,652	575,913	132,612	70,620	4,475	511	22,748	6,382	31,848
1845	1,211,099	499,122	175,407	88,193	4,101	775	19,906	3,985	28,614
1846	1,421,750	870,400	193,835	216,783	2,250	1,929	18,329	2,087	42,754
1847	1,027,802	725,704	87,636	221,731	1,120	798	14,240	725	33,111

Year.	POPULATION.			
	Adults.		Children.	Total.
	Male.	Female.		
1838	57,485	18,000	22,427	97,912
1839	63,784	21,998	28,604	114,386
1840	70,021	25,476	33,966	129,463
1841	75,474	33,546	40,649	149,669
1842	76,528	35,762	47,599	159,889
1843	76,147	35,474	53,920	165,541
1844	74,912	36,170	62,295	173,377
1845	74,951	36,223	70,382	181,556
1846	82,847	42,287	71,570	196,704
1847	83,572	41,809	79,628	205,009

NOTE.—From 1838 to 1841, the crops and produce of land beyond the boundaries of location are not included.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

VINEYARDS.

RETURN of the Number of Acres of Land planted with the Grape Vine, and of the Quantity of Wine and Brandy made from the Produce thereof, in the Year 1848.

Counties.	Acres.	Wine.	Brandy.
Sydney or Middle District.		Gallons.	Gallons.
Argyle	36	..	..
Bathurst	¼	100	..
Bligh	2½	40	..
Brisbane	66	1,001	..
Camden	73	11,000	383
Cook	34	150	20
Cumberland	255¼	11,089	504
Durham	176	8,157	115
Georgiana	..	..	..
Gloucester	90	7,060	100
Hunter	18	389	..
King	8	300	20
Macquarie	16	6,000	200
Murray	6	..	..
Northumberland	85	5,249	60
Phillip	1	100	..
Roxburgh	23	3,320	..
St. Vincent	..	..	..
Stanley	3	..	..
Wellington	½	..	..
Westmoreland	½	10	..
	894	53,965	1,402
Beyond the boundaries of location	5	70	..
Port Phillip or Southern District.			
Bourke	52	..	..
Grant	48	1,300	30
Normanby	1	..	..
	101	1,300	30
Totals	1,000	55,335	1,432

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 5.

LIVE STOCK.

RETURN of Live Stock in the Colony of New South Wales on the 1st January, 1848.

Counties or Districts.	Description of Stock.			
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.
Sydney or Middle District, within the Boundaries of Location.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Argyle	3,702	22,187	1,429	284,794
Bathurst	3,042	23,252	748	230,479
Bligh	987	10,765	119	143,941
Brisbane	1,865	9,631	505	111,452
Camden	5,448	35,005	6,456	34,680
Cook	2,224	8,596	3,408	13,974
Cumberland	13,241	24,091	11,532	9,728
Durham	4,805	35,053	7,068	90,474
Georgiana	2,760	25,713	967	186,290
Gloucester	2,676	28,250	2,225	44,278
Hunter	1,443	6,437	1,322	5,741
King	1,133	19,948	836	104,546
Macquarie	1,349	22,618	1,417	39,472
Murray	3,286	23,408	1,295	264,503
Northumberland	6,038	28,306	7,088	18,347
Phillip	1,103	4,190	233	78,522
Roxburgh	2,300	17,600	600	180,000
St. Vincent	2,048	25,488	2,414	55,352
Stanley	173	1,664	294	4
Wellington	1,050	8,012	420	97,496
Westmoreland	1,722	11,048	844	46,166
	62,395	391,262	51,220	2,040,239

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Return of Live Stock in the Colony of New South Wales—*continued.*

Counties or Districts.	Description of Stock.			
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.
Commissioners' Districts, beyond the Boundaries of Location.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Bligh	1,265	45,664	..	187,109
Clarence River	1,022	31,717	1,749	157,227
Darling Downs	1,072	29,358	65	454,184
Gwyder	1,946	112,714	..	106,317
Lachlan	4,024	119,369	871	308,818
Liverpool Plains	3,534	126,050	500	338,374
Lower Darling*	..	..	..	..
McLeay River	787	17,879	540	879
Menaroo	4,946	109,242	520	362,441
Moreton Bay	944	17,245	No Return.	244,750
Murrumbidgee	3,687	120,681	1,200	571,315
New England	2,645	70,908	500	632,957
Wellington	1,495	60,564	200	250,672
	27,367	861,391	6,145	3,615,043
Total in the Sydney or Middle District	89,762	1,252,653	57,365	5,655,282
Port Phillip or Southern District, within the Boundaries of Location.				
Bourke	1,750	27,317	2,347	130,090
Grant	610	8,202	450	242,900
Normanby	507	11,846	268	139,651
	2,867	47,365	3,065	512,641
Commissioners' Districts, beyond the Boundaries of Location.				
Gipps Land	1,163	41,214	266	171,114
Murray	2,960	90,057	400	472,507
Portland Bay	3,934	106,542	..	1,696,217
Western Port	2,733	44,813	1,300	954,792
Wimmera	496	14,270	250	591,088
	11,286	296,896	2,216	3,885,718
Total in the Port Phillip or Southern District	14,153	344,261	5,281	4,398,359
General Total	103,915	1,596,914	62,646	10,053,641

* No Return rendered.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. Deas Thomson,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 6.

TALLOW AND LARD.

Return of Live Stock Slaughtered, and the Quantity of Tallow and Lard produced from the same, in the Year 1847.

District.	Number of Boiling-down Establishments.	Sheep Slaughtered.	Horned Cattle Slaughtered.	Tallow Produced.	Hogs Slaughtered.	Lard Produced.
		Number.	Number.	Cwt.	Number.	lbs.
Sydney or Middle District—						
Within the Boundaries of Location	39	84,921	26,760	45,400	54	1,680
Beyond the Boundaries of Location	10	43,820	5,252	13,563	..	..
Port Phillip or Southern District	4	52,437	2,647	13,205	6	488
Totals	53	181,178	34,659	72,168	60	2,168

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. Deas Thomson,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 7.

IMPORTS.

RETURN of the Value of Imports into the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.		From South Sea Islands.	From Fisheries.	From United States.	From Foreign States.	Total.
		New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1838	1,102,127	53,943	255,975	5,548	71,506	8,066	82,112	1,579,277
1839	1,251,969	71,709	504,828	3,863	186,212	23,093	194,697	2,236,371
1840	2,200,305	54,192	376,954	1,348	104,895	24,164	252,331	3,014,189
1841	1,837,369	45,659	286,637	24,361	97,809	35,282	200,871	2,527,988
1842	854,774	37,246	260,955	10,020	64,999	20,117	206,948	1,455,059
1843	1,034,942	15,738	211,291	22,387	42,579	12,041	211,566	1,550,544
1844	643,419	20,795	133,128	10,624	32,507	17,187	73,600	931,260
1845	777,112	34,470	203,289	40,048	43,503	7,416	128,016	1,233,854
1846	1,119,301	23,367	239,576	21,799	56,461	4,459	165,559	1,630,522
1847	1,347,241	27,159	361,565	6,919	41,557	1,550	196,032	1,982,023

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 8.

EXPORTS.

RETURN of the Value of Exports from the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.		To South Sea Islands.	To Fisheries.	To United States.	To Foreign States.	Total.
		New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1838	583,154	46,924	113,716	7,137	33,988	11,324	6,525	802,768
1839	597,100	95,173	194,684	1,347	34,729	18,568	7,175	948,776
1840	792,494	215,486	304,724	6,621	27,864	27,885	24,618	1,399,692
1841	706,336	114,980	123,968	13,144	18,417	4,837	41,715	1,023,397
1842	685,705	131,784	166,239	3,005	22,862	17,101	40,715	1,067,411
1843	825,885	79,764	205,992	17,934	18,827	. .	23,918	1,172,320
1844	854,903	70,799	165,553	14,106	11,623	. .	11,131	1,128,115
1845	1,254,881	77,017	199,771	17,656	1,593	. .	5,068	1,555,986
1846	1,130,179	106,277	222,645	13,441	590	. .	8,407	1,481,539
1847	1,503,091	122,205	212,932	14,231	. .	. .	17,587	1,870,046

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1828.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 9.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

RETURN of the Value of the Imports into, and Exports from, the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1844 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.				
	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States.	Total Value.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions.	Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States.	Total Value.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1844	629,510	154,572	147,178	931,260	864,709	119,197	64,266	79,943	1,128,115
1845	786,514	156,491	290,849	1,233,854	1,269,062	100,901	110,160	75,863	1,555,986
1846	1,111,238	88,638	430,646	1,630,522	1,201,433	120,424	80,499	79,183	1,481,539
1847	1,269,183	95,118	617,722	1,982,023	1,649,031	136,385	15,865	68,765	1,870,046

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 10.

IMPORT OF GRAIN.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Grain, &c., Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley, Oats, and Peas.	Flour and Bread.	Rice.	Potatoes.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Tons.	£.
1838	79,328	6,040	58,927	2,478,712	728,346	1,167	64,313
1839	171,207	30,862	64,093	3,579,076	1,414,747	1,189	285,110
1840	290,843	19,185	63,363	7,108,663	6,849,896	1,723	217,063
1841	239,224	12,773	41,610	14,929,503	3,603,076	480	201,632
1842	163,224	1,120	37,798	7,247,016	2,260,046	1,401	113,070
1843	395,374	583	61,361	6,941,760	1,678,208	547	112,387
1844	265,704	17	35,194	4,370,240 & 250 casks of biscuit.	260,288	1,085	65,442
1845	109,355	..	46,399	3,327,632	450,040	430	39,855
1846	237,717	536	46,454	5,367,936	1,283,968	2,663	63,764
1847	224,720	..	37,469	5,335,680	1,044,288	1,227	52,740

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 11.

EXPORT OF GRAIN.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Grain, &c., Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Wheat.	Maize.	Barley, Oats, and Peas.	Flour and Bread.	Potatoes.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Pounds.	Tons.	£.
1843	273	4,687	1,870	3,146,192	47	13,486
1844	825	26,184	1,798	2,028,344	60	12,232
1845	1,362	5,334	292	2,837,632	50	13,931
1846	6,252	1,867	545	3,491,744	3	12,258
1847	8,820	62,262	4,216	1,786,400	84	16,944

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 12.

IMPORT OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Butter and Cheese Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Quantity.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
	lbs.	£.
1843	248,170	9,497
1844	60,704	1,184
1845	22,216	579
1846	45,456	1,062
1847	10,164	413

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 13.

EXPORT OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Butter and Cheese Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Quantity.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	lbs.	£.
1843	81,173	3,488
1844	188,174	3,717
1845	172,368	4,313
1846	100,287	3,665
1847	253,880	5,977

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 14.

IMPORT OF LIVE STOCK.

RETURN of Live Stock Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Description of Stock.			
	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Sheep and Hogs.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1838	185	74.	9,822	192
1839	652	135	17,567	359
1840	1,008	244	19,958	252
1841	875	156	530	50 Hogs.
1842	113	89	638	65 „
1843	31	28	609	4 „
1844	52	21	307	..
1845	693	48	811	2
1846	655	29	1,228	..
1847	591	22	2,285	..

N.B. The sheep have principally been imported from Van Diemen's Land to the district of Port Phillip. The horses have chiefly come from South America.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 15.

EXPORT OF LIVE STOCK.

RETURN of Live Stock Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Description of Stock.						Total Value, as Entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Horses.	Asses and Mules.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.	Goats.	
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	£
1843	248	2	1,852	77,116	..	..	41,915
1844	489	3	3,329	53,318	..	..	40,394
1845	1,159	..	3,972	33,651	6	..	53,438
1846	1,021	..	6,052	37,848	4	..	52,942
1847	466	..	8,034	71,440	1	10	57,355

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 16.

IMPORT OF SALT MEAT.

RETURN of the Value of Salt Meat Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Value, as Entered in the Returns of Imports.
	£.
1843	19,286
1844	3,355
1845	5,200
1846	7,197
1847	3,917

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 17.

EXPORT OF SALT MEAT.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Salt Meat Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Beef, Pork, and Mutton.	Mutton, Bacon, and Hams.	Tongues.	Total Value, as Entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	£.
1843	2,867 casks and 856½ tons.	..	224 lbs.	13,924
1844	4,292 casks and 294¾ tons.	20,615	110 cwt. and 150 in No.	18,730
1845	1,142 casks 425½ tons 345 packages, and 4,400 lbs. of preserved meats.	94 cwt. 11,422 in No.	63 casks 2,450 in No.	12,163
1846	721 casks 1,126 tons 12 packages of preserved meats.	39 cwt. 300 in No.	12 casks 300 in No.	15,664
1847	4,335 casks 866 tons 15 cwt. 224 packages of preserved meats.	224 cwt. 32 in No.	127 casks.	24,278

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 18.

IMPORT OF HIDES AND LEATHER.

RETURN of the Value of Hides and of Manufactured and Unmanufactured Leather Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
	£.
1843	36,185
1844	19,844
1845	14,124
1846	15,230
1847	21,283

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 19.

EXPORT OF HIDES AND LEATHER.

RETURN of the Value of Hides and of Manufactured and Unmanufactured Leather Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	£
1843	10,305
1844	22,285
1845	40,866
1846	28,999
1847	39,001

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 20.

EXPORT OF WOOL.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Wool Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Quantity.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	lbs.	£.
1838	5,749,376	405,977
1839	7,213,584	442,504
1840	8,610,775	566,112
1841	8,390,540	517,537
1842	9,428,036	595,175
1843	12,704,899	685,647
1844	13,542,173	645,344
1845	17,364,734	1,009,242
1846	16,479,520	1,019,985
1847	22,379,722	1,272,118

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 21.

EXPORT OF TALLOW.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Tallow Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Years.	Quantity.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	£.
1843	5,680 2 36	9,639
1844	56,609 2 7	83,511
1845	71,995 0 0	102,746
1846	20,357 1 7	28,107
1847	99,847 0 0	108,186

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 22.

EXPORT OF BARK.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Bark and Extract of Bark Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1843 to 1847, inclusive.

Years.	Quantity.	Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
		£.
1843	1,199 tons, and 6 casks .	5,179
1844	2,926¾ tons, and 20 casks .	9,114
1845	591½ tons	2,256
1846	595 tons	1,585
1847	19½ tons	75

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 23.

IMPORT OF TIMBER.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Timber Imported into the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1843 to 1847.

Year.	Deals.	Other Timber.					Sandal Wood.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Imports.
		Sawn, &c.	Wrought.	Shingles.	Laths.	Paling.		
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	No.	No.	Tons.	£.
1843	12,327	212,890 ft. 509 loads,	82 pack.	3,000	115,000	172,000	107	10,156
1844	2,951	101,228 ft. and 108 loads.	54 do.	414,000 and 3 loads.	..	500,000	90	4,195
1845	10,457 and 256 loads.	604,524 ft. 541 loads.	5 prs. sashes.	2,118,685	254,500	128,630	415	10,541
1846	31,256	1,255,569 ft.	..	1,485,000 and 15½ loads.	461,750	392,570	44	10,278
1847	22,418	2,483,431	..	2,633,600	1,424,800	675,742	351	14,951

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 24.

EXPORT OF TIMBER.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Timber Exported from the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Cedar.		Blue Gum, Pine, and other Timber,		Treenails.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Quantity.		Quantity.		Number.	£.
1838	699,066	Superficial feet.	9,000 Superficial feet.		73,450	6,382
1839	729,001		823 Deals 15 Logs.		40,588	8,815
1840	1,250,786		151,500		4,350	20,971
1841	513,139		1,000	Superficial feet.	26,890	7,004
1842	522,882		27,404		55,644	5,800
1843	944,121		10,020 30 Logs.		155,294	9,813
1844	1,222,533 214 Pieces, and 24 Logs.		99,500 Superficial feet, and 33 Logs.*		105,428	8,825
1845	781,415	Superficial feet.	73,300 feet, 241 Logs, &c.		105,908	8,074
1846	956,515		39,006 feet.		113,972	7,851
1847	953,995		46,850 feet.		165,648	7,333

* 1844.—Also, a large quantity of timber, the measurement of which was not stated when entered at the Custom House.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 25.

EXPORT OF OIL.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Oil, &c., Exported from the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Sperm Whale.	Black Whale.	Whalebone.		Seal Skins.	Total Value, as entered in the Returns of Exports.
	Tuns.	Tuns.	Tons.	Cwt.	Quantity.	£.
1838	1,891	3,055	174	..	3 Cases.	197,644
1839	1,578	1,229	134	14	7 Cases.	172,315
1840	1,854	4,297	250	..	474 in No.	224,144
1841	1,545	1,018	84	13	41 ,,	127,470
1842	957	1,171	60	5	162 ,,	77,012
1843	1,115	190	22	8	155 ,,	72,989
1844	810	526	15	18	3 Bales.	57,493
1845	1,352	571	21	13	2 Casks and 10 Skins.	96,804
1846	1,061	344	17	9	..	70,126
1847	1,214	331	8	3¾	..	80,528

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No 26.

SHIPPING INWARDS.

RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels entered Inwards in the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip,) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	From Great Britain.		From British Colonies. New Zealand.		From British Colonies. Elsewhere.		From South Sea Islands.		From Fisheries.		From United States.		From Foreign States.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1838	102	41,848	38	4,291	241	34,469	6	616	31	7,928	1	274	9	2,351	428	91,777
1839	137	58,123	51	8,368	290	45,928	7	836	36	9,321	4	1,177	38	11,721	563	135,474
1840	190	80,806	68	13,123	347	53,625	6	750	27	8,087	8	2,520	63	20,047	709	178,958
1841	251	106,332	48	7,601	322	43,922	3	358	23	6,163	13	4,754	54	14,648	714	183,778
1842	137	55,144	81	14,085	282	42,365	19	2,902	20	5,806	7	2,762	82	20,857	628	143,921
1843	87	35,914	43	6,229	325	43,934	25	4,194	30	7,967	5	1,116	43	11,510	558	110,864
1844	78	34,765	54	7,189	226	31,195	13	1,831	27	7,888	3	1,005	16	3,666	417	87,539
1845	80	29,954	62	6,237	364	47,532	24	2,612	37	11,900	1	243	29	6,874	597	105,352
1846	84	36,761	65	10,865	475	57,485	27	3,005	79	24,375	1	370	36	8,606	767	141,467
1847	88	37,941	75	10,516	565	69,614	25	2,443	78	22,558	1	160	46	11,672	878	154,904

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 27.

SHIPPING OUTWARDS.

RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels entered Outwards in the Colony of New South Wales, (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	To Great Britain.		To British Colonies. New Zealand.		To British Colonies. Elsewhere.		To South Sea Islands.		To Fisheries.		To United States.		To Foreign States.		Totals.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1838	35	12,367	39	5,358	216	28,494	5	362	40	10,385	1	289	73	35,749	409	93,004
1839	39	13,886	81	13,581	303	52,749	7	1,216	28	7,718	2	621	88	35,005	548	124,776
1840	54	18,774	83	17,111	350	66,131	6	737	22	6,199	4	950	146	53,802	665	163,704
1841	54	16,418	80	14,607	340	68,449	10	2,002	19	5,053	1	341	186	65,248	690	172,118
1842	54	16,323	78	13,080	328	56,891	15	2,749	25	7,318	2	705	131	37,904	633	134,970
1843	70	22,154	54	10,018	322	43,874	42	9,783	21	5,793	..	..	55	18,404	564	110,026
1844	67	24,163	58	8,590	357	52,551	21	2,796	24	6,724	..	..	42	14,418	569	109,242
1845	67	25,221	67	8,781	392	48,392	25	2,993	40	11,763	..	..	23	6,811	614	103,961
1846	57	22,545	77	16,033	482	59,522	28	3,359	73	21,873	..	..	37	11,666	754	134,998
1847	75	30,991	102	19,371	591	74,253	29	3,383	80	23,702	..	..	56	16,964	933	168,664

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 28.

VESSELS REGISTERED.

RETURN of the Number of Vessels Built and Registered in the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Vessels Built.		Vessels Registered.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1838	20	808	41	6,229
1839	12	773	79	10,862
1840	18	1,207	98	12,426
1841	35	2,074	110	11,250
1842	26	1,357	89	9,948
1843	47	1,433	92	7,022
1844	18	519	87	8,087
1845	18	1,042	98	9,376
1846	28	1,032	83	4,895
1847	36	2,284	104	9,428

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 29.

LAND SALES.

RETURN of the Amounts received from the Sale of Crown Lands in the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip) from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Amount.		
	£.	s.	d.
1838	116,324	18	11
1839*	152,962	16	4
1840	316,626	7	5
1841†	90,387	16	10
1842‡	14,574	10	4
1843§	11,297	3	9
1844	7,402	18	6
1845	18,451	5	6
1846	27,060	15	7
1847	62,801	4	1

* 1839.—In this year the minimum price was raised from 5*s.* to 12*s.* an acre, but did not extend to lands previously advertised at the former rate, of which there was a very large quantity at the time.

† 1841.—In this year the system of sale at a fixed price of 1*l.* per acre was introduced into the district of Port Phillip.

‡ 1842.—In this year the system of sale by auction was resumed throughout the colony, at a minimum upset price of 12*s.* per acre for country lands, with liberty to select portions not bid for at the upset price.

§ 1843.—In this year the minimum price was raised to 1*l.* per acre by the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 5th and 6th Vic., cap. 36, with liberty to select, at the upset price, country portions put up to auction and not bid for, or on which the deposit had been forfeited.

NOTE.—In the year 1831, Lord Ripon's regulations for the abolition of free grants, and the sale by auction of all Crown lands, were first promulgated in the colony.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 30.

AUCTION DUTY.

RETURN of the Amount of Auction Duty, at 1½ per cent., paid into the Colonial Treasury, and of the Amount of Sales, subject to the said Duty, from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Amount of Duty.			Amount of Sales.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1838	6,137	10	1	409,166	18	10
1839	7,700	16	5	513,388	1	1
1840	18,701	2	10	1,246,742	15	6
1841	14,455	9	1	963,696	18	10
1842	10,291	6	8	686,088	17	9
1843	6,818	9	6	454,565	0	0
1844	4,662	9	5	310,831	8	0
1845	6,068	2	10	404,542	16	0
1846	6,217	7	3	414,490	16	8
1847	7,061	14	4	470,781	1	10

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 31.

MORTGAGES ON LAND—SYDNEY.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Mortgages on Land in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Sydney, from the Year 1838 to 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Lent on Town Lands.				Lent on Country Lands.				Lent on Town and Country Lands.				Totals.			
	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.			Number of Mortgages.	Amount.			Number of Mortgages.	Amount.			Number of Mortgages.	Amount.		
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1838	139	59,702	6	4	207	174,388	4	0	10	14,801	6	0	356	248,891	16	4
1839	159	112,835	19	0	213	189,447	10	8	11	46,534	15	2	383	348,818	4	10
1840	155	112,158	19	11	281	355,224	0	5	23	47,358	0	0	459	514,741	0	4
1841	241	266,944	13	0	417	643,111	18	7	51	188,685	3	0	709	1,098,741	14	7
1842	238	282,659	7	0	333	384,566	6	0	54	157,186	17	0	625	824,412	10	0
1843	246	275,386	3	0	285	333,487	14	6	51	446,707	2	0	582	1,055,580	19	6
1844	192	94,400	11	0	252	144,352	7	0	50	61,065	4	0	494	299,818	2	0
1845	135	111,659	2	0	152	107,585	13	5	31	53,577	15	0	318	272,822	10	5
1846	146	64,856	10	2	148	86,726	1	2	14	18,792	0	0	308	170,374	11	4
1847	156	81,516	18	4	149	82,605	12	2	15	16,432	0	0	320	180,554	10	6

WILLIAM CARTER,
Registrar-General.

No. 32.

MORTGAGES ON LAND—PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Mortgages on Land in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Porlt Phillip, from the Year 1838 to 1847, iuclusive,

Year.	Lent on Town Lands.		Lent on Country Lands.		Lent on Town and Country Lands.		Totals.	
	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.	Number of Mortgages.	Amount.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1838	16	17,260 10 0	..	..	..	..	16	17,260 10 0
1839	89	44,868 14 7	21	32,595 2 9	..	..	110	77,463 17 4
1840	60	73,176 17 0	19	53,768 0 0	3	7,500 10 0	82	134,445 7 0
1841	51	42,858 0 0	40	39,765 10 0	8	25,850 15 0	99	108,474 5 0
1842	95	56,090 15 0	57	40,301 0 0	10	16,870 0 0	162	113,261 15 0
1843	69	27,238 0 0	47	48,322 10 0	18	194,853 0 0	134	270,413 10 0
1844	45	17,831 10 0	20	29,317 0 0	3	1,510 5 0	68	48,658 15 0
1845	37	12,262 0 0	25	24,461 0 0	1	10,000 0 0	63	46,723 0 0
1846	45	14,702 12 6	25	21,034 0 0	..	..	70	35,736 12 6
1847	67	19,544 6 9	30	23,487 13 6	..	..	97	43,032 0 3

J. D. PINNOCK,
Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court.

No. 33.

PREFERABLE LIENS ON WOOL. MORTGAGES ON LIVE STOCK—SYDNEY.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Preferable Liens on Wool, and of Mortgages on Live Stock, in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Sydney, since the passing of the Act of Council, 7 Vict., No. 3, 15th September, 1843, to 31st December, 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Preferable Liens on Wool.			Mortgages on Live Stock.				
	Number of Liens.	Number of Sheep.	Amount of Liens.	Number of Mortgages.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Horses.	Amount Lent.
			£. s. d.					£. s. d.
1843	54	318,739	30,664 18 5	96	397,995	44,430	903	178,567 6 10
1844	139	837,997	57,733 1 10	226	694,381	81,679	2,158	241,727 6 11
1845	125	657,989	55,865 18 7	152	464,713	49,131	1,568	132,355 7 7
1846	149	813,951	71,351 5 0	146	491,518	42,870	1,070	150,733 0 8
1847	199	1,095,402	107,447 16 10	168	623,257	45,578	1,110	137,856 15 1

N.B.—When any sum has been secured both by a lien on the wool and by a mortgage of the sheep, the amount has been included under the head of mortgages only.

WILLIAM CARTER,
Registrar-General.

No. 34.

PREFERABLE LIENS ON WOOL. MORTGAGES ON LIVE STOCK—PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Number and Amount of Preferable Liens on Wool, and of Mortgages on Live Stock, in the Colony of New South Wales, registered at Port Phillip, since the passing of the Act of Council, 7 Vict., No. 3, 15th September, 1843, to 31st December, 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Preferable Liens on Wool.			Mortgages on Live Stock.				
	Number of Liens.	Number of Sheep.	Amount of Liens.	Number of Mortgages.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Horses.	Amount Lent.
			£. s. d.					£. s. d.
1843	9	37,910	4,959 13 9	28	57,338	4,240	310	24,131 18 11
1844	66	275,168	23,022 12 0	117	345,159	19,655	629	129,008 2 8
1845	37	168,793	11,784 14 6	71	149,536	8,175	136	44,383 18 4
1846	22	133,375	11,159 17 4	85	251,402	12,506	227	100,071 7 4
1847	43	284,202	33,790 12 10	125	539,924	22,252	480	135,907 4 6

J. D. PINNOCK,
Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Registrar-General's Office, Sydney,
January 30, 1847.

SIR,

IN transmitting to you the returns required by your Circular of the 2nd November last, I do myself the honour to observe that, in the return of the number of sheep and amount of money advanced under the Lien Act, it would appear as if an additional sum was advanced each subsequent year upon that mentioned to have been advanced the year previous. It must, however, be borne in mind that as the Lien Act only authorises an advance to be made on the ensuing clip of wool, the liens are renewable every year, and that consequently the same sheep and money may be included in one year as that mentioned for the previous year. The same remark may also apply to the mortgages of sheep, cattle, and horses, as the mortgages are generally made redeemable a twelvemonth from the date thereof.

In the return of the amount secured by mortgages of real estate, however, the repayment of the

NEW SOUTH WALES.

amount is, upon an average, required to be made every three or four years, and that, consequently, in the return under this head, the same money may have been re-lent and re-secured three times during the period (10 years) included in this return. Under these circumstances I have not given a general total of the amount, as it might lead to a false conclusion.

In other respects, I beg to observe the accompanying returns are correct.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

WILLIAM CARTER, Registrar-General.

No. 35.

IMPORTS—PORT OF SYDNEY.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the Colony of New South Wales (exclusive of the District of Port Phillip) during the Year 1847.

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Agricultural Implements	109 packages.	25	15	..	..	..	..	..	40
Alkali	282 tons.	2,732	..	13	..	..	..	..	2,745
Ambergris	72 lbs.	..	80	..	..	..	..	..	80
Apparel and Slops	1,788 bales.	56,634	26	1,108	190	..	..	..	57,958
Arms and Ammunition. — Guns, &c.	9 cases.	58	5	120	..	..	..	..	183
Arms and Ammunition. — Gunpowder	29,215 lbs.	1,568	..	130	..	..	..	..	1,698
Arms and Ammunition. — Shot	407 cwt.	574	..	..	..	..	..	..	574
Arms and Ammunition. — Percussion Caps	20 cases.	618	..	..	..	..	..	..	618
Arrowroot and Sago	546 cwt.	164	11	109	240	..	..	..	524
Bags and Sacks	727 bales.	9,298	..	772	10	..	..	35	10,115
Bark	112 tons.	..	20	102	..	..	..	..	122
Bellows, Smiths'	65 pairs.	273	..	..	..	..	..	..	273
Beer and Ale	508,011 gallons.	63,283	2	113	..	..	..	..	63,398
Blacking	320 casks.	782	..	35	..	..	..	..	817
Blankets and Counterpanes	335 bales.	12,126	100	101	..	..	..	..	12,327
Bran	416 bushels.	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	12
Bricks, Bath, &c.	93 hogsheads.	142	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Brushware	223 packages.	1,910	..	12	..	..	10	..	1,932
Butter and Cheese	61 cwt.	56	44	30	..	..	..	..	130
Candles	47,903 lbs.	1,800	..	345	..	..	80	15	2,240
Candlewick	79 bales.	564	..	200	..	..	..	..	764
Canvas	444 ,,	5,059	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,059
Carpeting	77 ,,	2,406	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,406
Carriages and Carriage materials	84 packages.	395	..	5	..	..	..	..	400
Cement	424 barrels.	390	..	3	..	..	..	..	393
Coffee	8,724 cwt.	591	..	1,579	..	..	..	7,795	9,965
Colours, Painters'	4,010 casks.	3,943	5	4	..	..	..	110	4,062
Confection and Preserves	1,258 cases.	297	..	408	..	..	..	197	902
Copper	2,644 cwt.	12,182	61	330	93	..	20	..	12,686
Copper Ore	556 tons.	..	1,048	2,740	..	..	..	..	3,788
Cordage and Rope	9,616 cwt.	7,681	478	1,151	..	..	..	3,619	12,929
Corks and Bungs	307 bales.	1,574	..	81	..	..	..	..	1,655
Cottons	2,685 ,,	99,965	55	1,373	..	..	52	..	101,445
Curiosities	27 cases.	..	1	21	2	..	..	2	26
Drugs and Medicines	2,370 ,,	11,757	100	331	..	..	..	10	12,198
Dye wood	500 feet.	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Earthenware and China	1,917 crates.	15,162	31	64	..	..	..	133	15,390
Fireworks	1 case.	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fish, Salt	3,192 packages.	4,439	2	1	34	..	..	..	4,476
Flax and Hemp	1,195 cwt.	..	630	..	..	..	..	..	630
Flour and Bread	1,435 tons.	..	..	8,563	..	..	..	..	8,563
Fruits — Dried	4,334 cwt.	5,759	..	399	..	..	..	..	6,158
Fruits — Green	1,829 packages.	..	10	382	34	..	..	..	426
Furniture	806 ,,	1,956	3	247	..	..	390	92	2,688
Furs	10 cases.	90	..	..	..	..	..	30	120
Glass and Glassware	5,490 ,,	11,074	415	48	..	..	..	..	11,537
Glass, Looking	48 ,,	1,083	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,083
Glue	32 cwt.	64	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Grain — Wheat	218,877 bushels.	..	..	26,019	3	..	..	..	26,022
Grain — Oats and Barley	21,996 ,,	..	..	2,399	..	..	..	..	2,399
Grain — Rice	6,984 cwt.	..	..	1,660	2	..	..	350	2,012
Grindery	113 casks.	1,388	..	10	..	..	..	..	1,398
Grindstones	23 No.	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Gum	110 cwt.	..	6	10	..	..	..	..	16
Haberdashery	1,758 cases.	71,172	27	354	..	..	..	44	71,597
Hardware and Ironmongery	7,991 packages.	63,411	446	179	9	..	9	59	64,113
Hats, Caps, and Bonnets	510 cases.	14,588	5	88	..	..	..	878	15,559
Hatters' materials	47 cases.	1,651	..	2	..	..	..	..	1,653
Hay	82 tons.	..	..	169	..	..	..	..	169
Hops	1,258 pockets.	8,033	..	133	..	..	429	..	8,600
Horse hair	36 bags.	651	..	..	..	..	..	..	651
Hosiery and Gloves	271 cases.	12,868	..	300	..	..	..	..	13,168
Instruments — Musical	95 ,,	3,575	25	..	..	..	..	..	3,600
Instruments — Scientific	14 ,,	382	..	..	..	..	..	..	382
Iron and Steel	1,833 tons.	20,563	165	289	58	..	..	..	21,075
Jewellery	39 cases.	3,051	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,051
Lacquered ware	260 ,,	..	..	223	..	..	..	440	663
Lard	5 cwt.	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	7
Lead	218 tons.	3,842	180	6	..	..	..	..	4,028
Lead Ore	26 ,,	..	..	200	..	..	..	..	200
Leather — Unmanufactured	26 cases.	1,172	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,172
Leather — Boots and Shoes	484 trunks.	10,789	10	572	10	..	..	20	11,401
Lime Juice	320 gallons.	42	..	..	..	..	..	..	42

Return of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the Colony of New South Wales, &c.—*continued.*

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Linens	2,005 cases.	61,604	30	2,118	..	..	..	..	63,752
Live Stock . Horses	4 No.	..	..	126	..	..	..	..	126
Live Stock . Sheep	46 ,,	500	..	4	..	..	..	..	504
Lucifer Matches	68 cases.	565	..	40	..	..	..	..	605
Machinery	1,056 cwt.	2,966	124	..	..	..	..	..	3,090
Malt	502 casks.	1,200	..	14	..	..	..	..	1,214
Marble	5 cases.	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Mats and Rugs	438 rollers.	141	..	203	..	..	..	35	379
Millinery	354 cases.	17,002	..	90	..	..	..	..	17,092
Mill Stones	578 No.	341	..	..	..	..	..	..	341
Molasses	7,046 cwt.	32	..	663	3	..	..	897	1,595
Nails . Iron	2,478 kegs.	5,997	38	38	..	..	..	..	6,073
Nails . Copper	49 ,,	314	..	..	..	..	..	..	314
Oakum	29 tons.	793	..	60	..	..	..	..	853
Oatmeal and Pearl Barley	109 barrels.	209	4	..	..	..	..	..	213
Oil . Sperm	1,002 tuns.	40	16,346	777	240	40,012	..	..	57,415
Oil . Black	300 ,,	..	2,710	..	..	1,225	..	..	3,935
Oil . Linseed	22,807 gallons.	3,567	..	170	..	..	..	..	3,737
Oil . Olive	1,395 ,,	277	..	104	..	..	..	3	384
Oil . Palm	15 cwt.	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Oil . Cocoa Nut	162 tuns.	..	100	..	2,577	..	..	..	2,677
Oil Cloth	16 cases.	310	..	..	..	..	..	..	310
Oilman's Stores	11,398 ,,	33,400	30	371	11	..	14	19	33,845
Onions	433 cwt.	..	..	104	..	..	..	..	104
Peas, Split	40 barrels.	128	..	1	..	..	..	..	129
Pepper and Spices	1,587 cwt.	647	..	481	..	..	..	383	1,511
Perfumery	267 cases.	2,420	..	6	..	..	..	2	2,428
Pipes, Tobacco	1,225 boxes.	1,426	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,426
Pictures and Paintings	22 cases.	318	..	..	..	..	..	..	318
Plants and Seeds	144 packages.	226	2	43	..	..	4	..	275
Plate and Plated Ware	43 cases.	2,611	..	155	..	..	..	..	2,766
Pitch and Tar	864 barrels.	796	..	30	..	..	..	..	826
Potatoes and Yams	1,122 tons.	..	..	2,038	..	..	..	..	2,038
Provisions . Preserved	144 cases.	763	..	..	..	..	..	..	763
Provisions . Salted	894 barrels.	2,447	..	92	..	..	..	111	2,650
Rattans	10,578 bundles.	..	..	83	..	..	..	264	347
Resin	456 barrels.	79	..	17	..	..	50	..	146
Saddlery and Harness	309 cases.	9,679	..	186	..	..	..	..	9,865
Salt	3,741 tons.	9,185	..	566	..	..	..	..	9,751
Ship Chandlery	1,141 packages.	3,033	17	50	..	..	399	5	3,504
Shooks and Staves	52,788 No.	205	365	127	..	..	90	..	787
Silks	279 cases.	16,271	70	289	..	..	..	1,357	17,987
Skins . Neat Cattle	319 No.	..	34	..	..	..	..	..	34
Skins . Kangaroo	113 bales.	..	..	2,167	..	..	..	..	2,167
Skins . Seal	1 cask.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	20
Skins . Sheep	58 bales.	..	56	10	..	..	..	..	66
Slates	86,500 No.	610	8	..	..	..	..	..	618
Soap	1,709 cwt.	2,872	..	1	2	..	..	..	2,875
Specie	5 cases.	2,150	..	5,000	..	..	..	..	7,150
Spirits . Brandy	139,808 gallons.	47,649	140	2,973	..	..	..	270	51,032
Spirits . Rum	274,524 ,,	40,953	332	5,215	..	..	..	2,360	48,860
Spirits . Gin	69,590 ,,	11,288	..	20	..	..	..	3,485	14,793
Spirits . Whiskey	6,661 ,,	2,082	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,082
Spirits . Liqueurs	1,224 ,,	471	8	44	..	..	..	..	523
Starch and Blue	882 cases.	1,924	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,924
Stationery and Books	1,889 ,,	39,794	8	445	..	..	..	393	40,640
Sugar . Refined	2,334 cwt.	4,407	15	294	..	..	..	..	4,716
Sugar . Raw	9,265 tons.	..	40	28,466	203	..	..	86,487	115,196
Tallow	227 casks.	9	76	48	129	..	..	..	262
Tea	3,650,056 lbs.	4,896	23	145,284	..	..	..	50,456	200,659
Timber . Deals	1,615 No.	216	..	5	..	..	..	..	221
Timber . Spars	395,680 feet.	..	1,039	25	..	..	..	..	1,064
Timber . Sawn	60,800 ,,	31	..	110	..	..	..	..	141
Timber . Sandal Wood	351 tons.	..	..	..	3,000	..	..	..	3,000
Tin and Tinware	1,220 boxes.	1,527	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,527
Tobacco, Cigars, and Snuff	519,318 lbs.	12,146	681	4,451	51	..	..	18,056	35,385
Tortoiseshell	45 ,,	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	18
Toys and Turnery	726 cases.	2,791	..	143	..	..	..	162	3,096
Turpentine and Varnish	4,709 gallons.	1,237	18	..	..	..	..	..	1,255
Twine and Thread	595 bales.	2,868	..	170	..	..	..	..	3,038
Umbrellas and Parasols	21 cases.	926	..	..	..	..	..	..	926
Vinegar	25,853 gallons.	1,896	..	57	..	..	..	8	1,961
Watches and Clocks	54 cases.	569	..	180	..	..	..	..	749
Whalebone	114 cwt.	..	252	..	..	320	..	..	572
Whaling Gear	2 bundles.	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	20
Wicker Ware	726 packages.	256	..	302	..	..	3	120	68
Wine	185,536 gallons.	25,819	80	954	..	..	..	133	26,986
Wooden Ware	259 packages.	543	..	133	..	..	..	..	676
Wool	25,818 lbs.	..	269	60	..	..	..	..	329
Woollens	1,671 bales.	77,877	21	510	..	..	..	..	78,408
Woolpacks and bagging	293 ,,	5,741	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,741
Zinc	13 cwt.	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Total Imports in 1847		1,028,817	26,971	259,678	6,919	41,557	1,550½	178,835	1,544,327
Total Imports in previous year		905,912	23,183	152,064	21,799	56,461	4,459	151,073	1,314,951

J. GIBBES, Collector.

No. 36.

IMPORTS—PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the District of Port Phillip, during the Year 1847.

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Agricultural Implements	45 No.	315	..	308	..	..	..	..	623
Alkali (Soda)	126 casks.	897	..	..	..	..	..	..	897
Apparel and Slops	2,293 packages.	45,421	..	4,079	..	..	..	..	49,500
Arms and Ammunition — Guns	18 cases.	120	..	21	..	..	..	..	141
Arms and Ammunition — Gunpowder	1,030 lbs.	515	..	115	..	..	..	..	630
Arms and Ammunition — Shot	6 tons.	301	..	..	..	..	..	..	301
Arrowroot and Sago	101 casks.	10	..	111	..	..	..	..	121
Bags (empty)	610 bales.	9,110	..	1,651	..	..	..	2	10,763
Beer and Ale	178,699 galls.	18,106	..	2,317	..	..	..	..	20,423
Blacking	192 casks.	373	..	95	..	..	..	..	468
Bricks (Fire and Bath)	13,000 No.	71	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
Buckets	26 bundles.	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Candles	4,015 lbs.	148	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
Canvas	109 bales.	3,156	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,156
Carpeting	3 ,,	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Carriages	44 No.	605	..	569	..	..	..	..	1,174
Carts and Drays	89 ,,	..	..	648	..	..	..	..	648
Cement	55 barrels.	190	..	..	..	..	..	..	190
Cheese and Butter	3,332 lbs.	283	..	..	..	..	..	..	283
Clocks	66 No.	186	..	84	..	..	..	..	270
Coals and Coke	255 tons.	315	..	18	..	..	..	..	333
Cocoa Nuts	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10
Coffee and Chocolate	86 tons.	100	..	806	..	..	..	1,268	2,174
Colours, Painters'	315 casks.	1,032	..	57	..	..	..	..	1,089
Confection and Preserves	42 packages.	..	..	47	..	..	..	9	56
Cordage and Rope	88 tons.	1,327	30	778	..	..	..	750	2,885
Copper Ore	70 ,,	..	..	500	..	..	..	..	500
Corks	151 bales.	512	..	70	..	..	..	..	582
Cottons	1,315 packages.	41,728	..	2,794	..	..	..	..	44,522
Cutlery	22 ,,	921	..	70	..	..	..	..	991
Drugs and Medicines	679 ,,	3,207	..	451	..	..	..	10	3,668
Earthenware	832 crates.	7,296	..	660	..	..	..	..	7,956
Fish (Salt)	825 packages.	718	..	150	..	..	..	..	868
Flour	947 tons.	..	..	7,924	..	..	..	..	7,924
Fruits — Dried	950 packages.	1,051	..	469	..	..	..	..	1,520
Fruits — Green	2,599 ,,	..	..	944	..	..	..	..	944
Fruit Trees	105 ,,	..	..	74	..	..	..	..	74
Furniture	759 ,,	351	..	1,936	..	..	..	..	2,287
Glass (Window)	1,802 boxes.	3,248	..	36	..	..	..	..	3,284
Glassware	372 packages.	2,942	..	174	..	..	..	..	3,116
Grain — Barley	672 bushels.	14	..	124	..	..	..	..	138
Grain — Oats	14,801 ,,	..	..	1,787	..	..	..	..	1,787
Grain — Rice	117 tons.	..	..	17	..	..	..	873	890
Grain — Wheat	5,843 bushels.	1	..	751	..	..	..	..	752
Grindery	2 packages.	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Haberdashery	602 ,,	19,534	..	2,939	..	..	..	..	22,473
Hardware and Ironmongery	3,619 ,,	26,804	..	6,466	..	..	..	..	33,270
Hats and Bonnets	198 ,,	3,777	..	55	..	..	..	80	3,912
Hay and Straw	41 tons.	..	..	141	..	..	..	..	141
Hops	429 pockets.	2,919	..	1,035	..	..	..	..	3,954
Hosiery and Gloves	59 cases.	1,240	..	135	..	..	..	..	1,375
Iron and Steel	670 tons.	8,295	..	425	..	..	..	..	8,720
Lead	14 ,,	173	..	115	..	..	..	..	288
Leather — Unmanufactured	23 ,,	375	..	729	..	..	..	..	1,104
Leather — Boots and Shoes	247 packages.	4,536	..	665	..	..	..	..	5,201
Linens	268 ,,	7,891	..	115	..	..	..	..	8,006
Live Stock — Horses	587 No.	1,210	..	3,612	..	..	..	..	4,822
Live Stock — Horned Cattle	22 ,,	..	..	63	..	..	..	..	63
Live Stock — Sheep	2,239 ,,	105	..	659	..	..	..	..	764
Lucifer Matches	53 cases.	204	..	272	..	..	..	..	476
Machinery	13 tons.	..	..	280	..	..	..	..	280
Malt	473 bushels.	..	..	84	..	..	..	..	84
Musical Instruments (Pianofortes)	14 No.	150	..	408	..	..	..	..	558
Nails	2,132 casks.	2,816	..	517	..	..	..	..	3,333
Oatmeal	3,644 lbs.	44	..	6	..	..	..	..	50
Oil — Sperm	60 galls.	10	..	15	..	..	..	..	25
Oil — Black	3,380 ,,	30	..	603	..	..	..	..	633
Oil — Linseed	1,489 ,,	309	..	231	..	..	..	..	540
Oil — Olive	291 ,,	64	..	88	..	..	..	..	152
Oil Cloth	64 rolls.	450	..	65	..	..	..	..	515
Oilman's Stores	4,667 packages.	8,262	..	1,734	..	..	..	1	9,997
Pepper and Spices	25,209 lbs.	270	..	21	..	..	..	336	627
Perfumery	12 cases.	290	..	35	..	..	..	..	325
Pipes, Tobacco	693 packages.	762	..	75	..	..	..	..	837
Pitch, Tar, and Resin	9 casks.	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	11
Plate, Silver	2 packages.	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	15
Potatoes	105 tons.	..	9	206	..	..	..	..	215
Provisions (Hams and Bacon)	189 cwt.	423	..	81	..	..	..	..	504
Saddlery and Harness	365 packages.	8,552	..	217	..	..	..	..	8,769
Salt	970 tons.	3,281	..	257	..	..	..	..	3,538
Seeds	40 casks.	57	..	20	..	..	..	..	77
Shooks and Staves	14,422 No.	..	..	708	..	..	..	..	708
Silks	40 packages.	2,940	..	93	..	..	..	..	3,033
Skins (Kangaroo)	639 dozen.	..	..	118	..	..	..	..	118

Return of the Quantity and Value of Articles Imported into the District of Port Phillip, &c.—*continued.*

Articles Imported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.						
Description.	Quantity.	From Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Slates	43,600 No.	177	..	..	..	..	..	..	177
Soap	15 tons.	630	..	136	..	..	..	..	766
Spirits — Brandy	41,694 galls.	7,875	..	6,671	..	..	..	..	14,546
Spirits — Gin	23,860 ,,	3,932	..	457	..	..	..	650	5,039
Spirits — Whiskey	3,818 ,,	1,979	..	458	..	..	..	..	2,437
Spirits — Cordials	83 ,,	..	..	41	..	..	..	..	41
Spirits — Rum	57,983 ,,	5,783	..	5,239	..	..	..	..	11,022
Stationery and Books	742 packages.	10,886	..	614	..	..	..	..	11,500
Stone	31 tons.	..	..	153	..	..	..	..	153
,, Grind	614 No.	163	..	3	..	..	..	..	166
Sugar — Refined	347 tons.	5,679	..	646	..	..	..	..	6,325
Sugar — Raw	1,414 ,,	285	..	8,040	..	..	..	13,207	21,532
Tarpaulings	11 bales.	225	..	40	..	..	..	..	265
Tar (Spirits of)	608 galls.	107	..	..	..	..	..	..	107
Tea	319,437 lbs.	1,522	..	9,925	..	..	..	..	11,447
Timber — Deals and Battens	20,803 No.	1,390	..	266	..	..	..	..	1,656
Timber — Laths	1,424,800 ,,	..	..	451	..	..	..	..	451
Timber — Paling	675,742 ,,	..	..	2,155	..	..	..	..	2,155
Timber — Shingles	2,633,600 ,,	..	..	870	..	..	..	..	870
Timber — All other	2,026,951 feet.	97	137	5,159	..	..	..	..	5,393
Tin	410 boxes.	723	..	5	..	..	..	..	728
Tobacco and Cigars	258,136 lbs.	3,766	12	3,575	..	..	..	..	7,353
Turpentine	620 galls.	181	..	12	..	..	..	..	193
Vinegar	11,575 ,,	748	..	172	..	..	..	..	920
Wine	63,258 ,,	7,637	..	2,092	..	..	..	..	9,729
Woollens	403 bales.	14,229	..	713	..	..	..	..	14,942
Sundries—Bamboos, Bark, Bran, and Tallow	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	1	16
Total Imports for the year 1847		318,424	188	101,887	..	..	..	17,197	437,696
Total Imports in previous year		213,389	184	87,512	..	..	..	14,486	315,571

W. N. Llewellin, Acting Collector.

No. 37.

EXPORTS—PORT OF SYDNEY.

Return of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the Colony of New South Wales (exclusive of the District of Port Phillip), during the Year 1847.

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.						
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Ambergris	25 lbs.	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Apparel	2 cases.	..	10	..	10	..	..	..	20
Bags and Sacks	6 bales.	..	..	86	..	..	..	..	86
Bark	13 tons.	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	55
Baskets	7 packages.	..	7	10	..	..	..	..	17
Beer and Ale	10,372 gallons.	..	118	564	3	..	..	..	685
Bees'-wax	3 packages.	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	7
Blacking	20 casks.	..	10	75	..	..	..	..	85
Bone-dust	22 tons 8 cwt.	..	2	97	..	..	..	..	99
Bran	2,563 bushels.	..	56	5	..	..	..	71	132
Bricks	120,600	..	8	..	150	..	..	..	158
Butter and Cheese	59 tons 2 cwt.	..	1,624	1,008	50	..	..	121	2,803
Candles — Tallow	163,996 lbs.	..	2,007	679	113	..	..	30	2,829
Candles — Sperm	28 boxes.	..	29	57	..	..	..	..	86
Carts and Waggons	100	..	148	852	..	..	..	..	1,000
Coals and Coke	5,850 tons.	90	766	2,223	72	..	..	660	3,811
Confection and Preserves	192 packages.	26	185	113	..	..	..	..	324
Earthenware	24 crates.	..	52	109	..	..	..	..	161
Flour and Bread	651 tons.	14	5,227	546	629	..	..	1,342	7,758
Fruit	1,829 packages.	..	215	1,555	..	..	..	..	1,770
Furniture	262 ,,	..	392	856	..	..	..	..	1,248
Glassware	7 casks.	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Grain — Barley	,383 bushels.	..	306	225	..	..	..	..	531
Grain — Oats	381 ,,	..	16	..	..	..	..	39	55
Grain — Maize	59,514 ,,	6	892	3,437	..	..	..	386	4,721
Hardware	25 packages & 3 tons 14 cwt. 3 qrs.	20	149	7	15	..	..	..	191
Hats and Caps	42 cases.	..	4	838	..	..	..	..	842
Hay	3 tons 7 cwt.	..	..	15	..	..	..	2	17
Honey	20 cwt.	5	7	20	..	..	..	..	32
Hoofs, Horns, and Bones	751,315	2,242	..	15	..	..	..	630	2,887
Leather — Unmanufactured	26 tons 17 cwt.	540	1,068	110	..	..	..	70	1,788
Leather — Boots and Shoes	23 cases.	..	294	..	10	..	..	5	309

Return of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the Colony of New South Wales, &c.—*continued.*

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.						
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Live Stock. Horses	399	..	2,523	3,105	..	..	..	135	5,763
Live Stock. Horned Cattle	1,598	..	3,087	27	344	..	..	12	3,470
Live Stock. Sheep	13,421	..	3,630	202	165	..	..	93	4,090
Live Stock. Goats	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10
Live Stock. Pigs	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Lucifer Matches	7 cases.	..	8	16	..	..	..	..	24
Machinery	4 ,,	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Malt	100 bushels.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	20
Molasses	13 tons 8 cwt. 2 qrs.	..	144	..	..	..	..	15	159
Oatmeal, Pearl Barley, &c.	26 tons.	..	104	337	..	..	..	..	441
Oil. Sperm	1,214 tuns.	72,675	..	40	..	..	..	..	72,715
Oil. Black	287½ ,,	5,348	..	25	..	..	..	..	5,373
Oilman's Stores	90 packages.	..	151	38	..	..	..	..	189
Pictures	6 cases.	85	..	5	..	..	..	..	90
Pitch and Tar	98 barrels.	..	10	109	..	..	..	..	119
Plants and Seeds	28 cases.	15	6	38	..	..	..	6	65
Potatoes	22 tons 6 cwt.	2	..	3	12	..	..	52	69
Preserved Meats	224 packages.	307	59	4	1	..	..	150	521
Provisions, Salt. Beef	4,334 casks.	3,704	778	975	645	..	..	5,020	11,122
Provisions, Salt. Pork	1 ,,	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Provisions, Salt. Tongues	127 ,,	17	57	6	12	..	..	133	225
Provisions, Salt. Hams and Bacon	10 tons 18 cwt.	2	38	177	15	..	..	185	417
Saddlery and Harness	5 packages.	..	50	5	..	..	..	..	55
Skins. Neat Cattle	1,711 tons 6 cwt.	30,766	..	2,166	..	..	..	..	32,932
Skins. Sheep	178 packages.	186	..	3	..	..	..	..	189
Skins. Calf	10 ,,	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	25
Skins. Kangaroo	2 boxes.	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Skins. Goat	29 in No.	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Skins. Pig	57 in No.	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Soap	156 tons 19 cwt. 2 qrs.	..	1,651	1,574	229	..	..	30	3,484
Specimens of Natural History	47 packages.	253	..	11	..	..	..	..	264
Spirits	1,629 gallons.	..	80	342	..	..	..	..	422
Starch and Blue	5 cases.	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	9
Stationery and Books	3 boxes.	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	25
Stones. Grind	110	3	27	3	2	..	..	..	35
Stones. Building	88 tons.	..	..	178	..	..	..	..	178
Sugar, Refined	176 tons 3 cwt. 2 qrs.	..	2,630	..	74	..	..	4,568	7,272
Tallow	2,910 tons 7 cwt.	90,629	65	650	..	..	..	440	91,784
Timber. Cedar	953,995 feet.	105	117	5,496	226	..	..	80	6,024
Timber. Pine	15,750 ,,	20	..	53	..	..	..	..	73
Timber. Hardwood	15,600 ,,	..	..	118	2	..	..	..	120
Timber. Shingles	75,500 ,,	..	..	..	30	..	..	..	30
Timber. Treenails and Spokes	163,178	874	..	37	..	..	..	..	911
Tinware	3 packages.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	20
Turnery	29 cases.	..	..	139	..	..	..	..	139
Vinegar	340 gallons.	..	53	16	..	..	..	..	69
Whalebone	7 tons 3 cwt. 3 qrs.	1,210	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,210
Whaling Gear	. .	..	..	30	..	..	..	..	30
Wine	833 gallons.	16	80	2	..	..	..	..	98
Woodenware	4 packages.	..	2	25	1	..	..	..	28
Wool	12,000,073 lbs.	696,868	..	10	..	..	..	..	696,878
Woollen Manufactures (Tweed)	52 packages.	..	305	976	..	..	..	..	1,281
Sundries, viz.:—Groceries, Looking-Glasses, Goats' Hair, Salt, and various other Articles not enumerated		18	27	77	..	..	..	5	127
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales, including the Fisheries		906,160	29,327	30,639	2,810	..	..	14,290	983,226
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom		7,031	56,502	47,259	10,217	..	..	1,497	122,506
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions		5,230	2,547	6,983	124	..	..	981	15,865
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States		8,204	29,113	27,358	1,080	..	..	71	65,826
Total Exports in 1847		926,625	117,489	112,239	14,231	..	..	16,839	1,187,423
Total Exports in previous Year		805,898	105,531	122,471	13,441	590	..	8,407	1,056,338

J. GIBBES, Collector.

No. 38.
EXPORTS.—PORT OF NEWCASTLE.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the Port of Newcastle during the Year 1847.

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand.	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Candles	200 pounds.	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
Coals	2,450 tons.	..	593	209	..	..	..	82	884
Earthenware	3 crates.	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	23
Flour	2,000 pounds.	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	13
Fruit	14 packages.	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	15
Grain. Barley	102 bushels.	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	15
Grain. Maize	2,748 ,,	..	197	..	..	..	..	60	257
Hay	10½ tons.	..	39	..	..	..	..	6	45
Live Stock. Horses	58	..	505	..	..	..	..	..	505
Live Stock. Horned Cattle	379	..	668	..	..	..	..	..	668
Live Stock. Sheep	3,484	..	1,192	..	..	..	..	..	1,192
Specimens of Natural History	2 cases.	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Tallow	30,428 pounds.	600	..	..	..	..	..	..	600
Wool	169,611 ,,	9,435	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,435
Sundries	3 packages.	2	12	..	..	..	..	..	14
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales		10,049	3,277	209	..	..	..	148	13,683
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom		..	429	..	..	..	..	..	429
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Exports in 1847 £		10,049	3,706	209	..	..	..	148	14,112

C. BOLTON, Sub-Collector.

No. 39.
EXPORTS. PORT PHILLIP.

RETURN of the Quantity and Value of Articles Exported from the District of Port Phillip during the Year 1847.

Articles Exported.		Estimated Value in Pounds Sterling.							
Description.	Quantity.	To Great Britain.	British Colonies.		South Sea Islands.	Fisheries.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
			New Zealand	Elsewhere.					
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Bark	6½ tons.	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Bones, horns, and hoofs	166½ ,,	1,560	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,560
Butter	65,608 pounds.	..	..	1,879	..	..	..	..	1,879
Cheese	55,888 ,,	..	..	1,295	..	..	..	..	1,295
Candles	24 cwt.	..	..	139	..	..	..	..	139
Curiosities	26 packages.	133	..	7	..	..	..	..	140
Flour and bread	146½ tons.	..	565	733	..	..	..	..	1,388
Grain. Wheat	8,820 bushels.	1,751	..	180	..	..	..	..	1,931
Grain. Oats	350 ,,	..	..	35	..	..	..	..	35
Leather, Unmanufactured	14¾ tons.	424	..	34	..	..	..	..	458
Live Stock. Horses	9	..	..	95	..	..	..	..	95
Live Stock. Horned Cattle	6,057	..	120	18,844	..	..	..	..	18,964
Live Stock. Sheep	54,535	..	21	22,574	..	..	..	..	22,595
Oil, Black	43½ tuns.	150	..	880	..	..	..	..	1,030
Papers	5 boxes.	88	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
Potatoes	62 tons.	10	120	54	..	..	..	..	184
Provisions. Beef and pork	17,335 cwt.	31	..	11,943	..	..	..	..	11,974
Provisions. Bacon	6 ,,	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	8
Provisions. Hams	32 in No.	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	7
Skins. Neat cattle	8,508 ,,	790	..	2,340	..	..	..	..	3,130
Skins. Sheep	7,400 ,,	..	..	125	..	..	..	..	125
Skins. Kangaroo and Opossum	46 dozen.	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Soap	129 tons.	..	..	2,818	..	..	..	..	2,818
Sugar, Refined	1 ,,	..	..	36	..	..	..	..	36
Tallow	11,212 cwt.	14,246	..	1,556	..	..	..	..	15,802
Timber	15,500 feet.	130	..	1	..	..	..	..	131
Treenails	2,470 in No.	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Whalebone	20 cwt.	..	..	200	..	..	..	..	200
Wool	10,210,038 pounds.	546,211	..	19,594	..	..	..	..	565,805
Sundries, viz.:—Beer, Bran, Fruit, Greaves, Linseed, Luggage, Hardware, Mats, Neats-foot Oil, Onions, Oatmeal, Seeds, Woolpress, Wine, Woollens		50	..	179	..	..	..	..	232
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of New South Wales, including the Fisheries		565,653	826	85,643	..	..	..	..	652,122
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom		408	60	12,982	..	..	..	..	13,450
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of other British Dominions		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Value of Articles the Produce or Manufacture of Foreign States		356	124	1,859	..	..	..	600	2,939
Total Exports in 1847 £		566,417	1,010	100,484	..	..	..	600	668,511
Total Exports in previous Year £		323,881	746	100,574	..	..	..	..	425,201

W. N. LLEWELLIN, Acting Collector.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 40.

WHALE FISHERIES—PORT OF SYDNEY.

A RETURN of the Ships and Vessels engaged in the Fisheries that have visited Port Jackson during the last four years; distinguishing those that are Colonial, British, or Foreign, with the Tonnage of each description, and estimated value of the Cargoes disposed of by the last-mentioned class for payment for Repairs, Refitting, and Refreshment.

Years.	Description of Vessels.						Description and Value of Cargo disposed of by Foreign Ships.			
	Colonial.		British.		Foreign.					
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Sperm Oil.	Black Oil.	Whalebone.	Value.
							Tuns.	Tuns.	Cwt.	£.
1844	13	3,052	3	1,219	12	3,617	122	152	33	4,993
1845	15	3,444	7	2,685	15	5,345	37	122	147	4,269
1846	16	3,894	9	2,287	55	18,147	203	30	129	6,981
1847	23	5,345	4	1,137	43	13,866	368	192	673	15,804

Whalers exempted from Port Charges, 25th February, 1845.

Custom House, Sydney,
18th February, 1848.

J. GIBBES,
Collector.

No. 41.

WOOLLENS MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Woollens Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales during the Year 1847.

Number of Establishments.	Cloth.	Tweeds.	Blankets.
	Yards.	Yards.	Number.
8	18,484	156,604	424

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 42.

SOAP MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Soap Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales (including the District of Port Phillip), during the Year 1847.

Number of Establishments.	Quantity.
	Cwt.
16	25,725

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 43.

TOBACCO MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Tobacco Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales during the Year 1847.

Number of Establishments.	Quantity.
	Cwt.
4	1,321

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 44.

REFINED SUGAR MANUFACTURED.

RETURN of the Number of Establishments and Quantity of Refined Sugar Manufactured in the Colony of New South Wales during the Year 1847.

Number of Establishments.	Quantity.
	Cwt.
2	39,600

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 1st May, 1848.

E. DEAS THOMSON,
Colonial Secretary.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

(No. 115.) No. 29.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir W. DENISON to Earl GREY.

Van Diemen's Land,
Government House, June 3, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received December* 13, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1847; and I submit the following explanatory remarks upon the various subjects brought under your Lordship's notice therein:—

Revenue.

With reference to the comparative statement of the receipts under different heads for the years 1846 and 1847, it will be seen that there is an increase in the latter year of 40,130*l.* 3*s.*; but in order to give a more correct view of the bearing of this on the financial state of the colony, it will be necessary to enter into an analysis of the cause of the increase, and to look to the several heads under which the amount of revenue is collected.

Of these the most important are the Customs, and it will be seen that on every item there has been a steady increase, with the exception of the light dues, in which there is a slight diminution. The duties on spirits and tobacco show an increase of 3824*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, or of about 7 per cent., while the *ad valorem* duties have increased from 10,756*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* to 19,809*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* This great increase is owing principally to the operation of the 10th Vic., No. 7, by which a duty of 15 per cent. was placed upon goods, &c., imported from New South Wales, placing that colony on the same footing as all other British colonies.

Though I say that the increase is principally to be attributed to the receipt of duties on New South Wales' produce, yet it is no less true that there has been a steady increase in the importation of all other articles, especially of those, such as sugar, &c., which form one of the principal articles of consumption among the lower classes of the community.

Under the other heads of the ordinary revenue, amounting altogether to 25,405*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, there is a deficiency, as compared with the receipts of last year, amounting to about 3184*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* The great deficiencies are under the heads of licences, fees, and tolls; the loss under the head of licences is to be attributed in great measure to the non-collection of the dog tax, which in 1846 produced 3065*l.* 10*s.*, while in 1847 it only produced 366*l.* 5*s.* The circumstances under which this took place have been specially communicated to your Lordship in my former Despatches.

There appears to be a steady decrease in the amount of fees collected, more especially in those received from the sheriff, the courts of requests, and the police magistrates.

I am not at present in possession of data sufficient to enable me to account in a satisfactory manner for the deficiency; but I propose to investigate the matter in the course of the present year.

The loss under the head of tolls is attributable, not to any diminution in the traffic over the ferries in the hands of Government, but to the transfer under

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

the Act 10 Vic. of the tolls received at Bridgewater to the Commissioners for erecting the bridge at that place.

The total increase in the ordinary revenue for 1847 has amounted to 10,344*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

In the extraordinary revenue, exclusive of the amount derived from extraneous sources, such as aid from the British Treasury and loans, there has been a decrease of 1714*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, so that the total increase in the revenue arising from sources within the colony has been 8630*l.* 3*s.*

The grant from the Home Government of 37,500*l.* for the police and gaols for the whole of 1847, and for the three last quarters of 1846, raised the revenue of 1847 to the sum stated of 150,474*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*

Expenditure.

On referring to the comparative statement of the expenditure for 1846 and 1847, it will be seen that the outlay in the latter year exceeded that of 1846 by 23,306*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* This, however, is only an apparent increase, for the payments made in 1847 include in great part the salaries for the last quarter of 1846, which, in consequence of the deficiency of the colonial revenue, could not be paid in that year.

The items forming the largest part of the increase are pauperism, which shows an increase of 3786*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, and the repayment of debts to the banks, which absorbed altogether a sum of 15,441*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

On the subject of the former, I have addressed a Despatch to your Lordship, pointing out a mode in which this gradually increasing expenditure may be diminished and kept within bounds.

Under the head of public works there was also an increase of upwards of 2000*l.*

Commissariat Expenditure.

The Commissariat expenditure in 1847 amounted to 293,254*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, a diminution upon that of the previous year of about 6000*l.* In future years, however, this diminution will become more evident from the rapid reduction of the establishment connected with the convict department, including the military.

Under the head of the Receipts into the Military Chest, is a sum of 18,745*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* received from the Colonial Treasurer. A large portion of this consisted of payments from the Land Fund of balances due on account of emigration, and the remainder of money advanced in England to the agent of the colony for the purchase of stores, and of payments made for convict labour or for materials furnished on the spot for the use of the colony.

Troops.

The troops now serving in Van Diemen's Land consist of the 11th and 96th regiments. A detachment of the former is stationed at Norfolk Island. Looking to the diminution in the number of convicts in the colony, and to the increased efficiency of the police, I have expressed an opinion to the Major-General commanding in these colonies, that the duties required from Her Majesty's forces in Van Diemen's Land can be adequately performed by one regiment, mustering not more than 650 men, and I believe that the 96th regiment will be moved accordingly in a short time.

In the meantime, in preparation for such a change, most of the small detachments shown in the return of barracks are being withdrawn, and the troops concentrated in a few points, and those most advantageously situated with reference to any necessity which might possibly arise to compel a movement in force upon any given point.

Colonial Public Buildings.

The buildings of a public nature which have been commenced during the past year have been,—

1st. The bridge over the Derwent at Bridgewater. This, as executed under the provisions of an Act of Council, by which the funds arising from the tolls are specially appropriated towards its construction, does not appear on the estimate.

2nd. The bridge over the river Jordan at Pontville, on the main line of

road. The old bridge was in a very bad state of repair, owing principally to the imperfect manner in which it had been originally built, and it became necessary to rebuild a large portion of the piers and abutments, and to put a new floor on the whole.

3rd. The bridge on the main line of road over the Blackman River, which was required in order to complete the line from Hobart Town to Launceston.

4th. A bridge over the St. Paul's at Avoca. This is on a line of road which has been formed by the convict department in the direction of Falmouth on the East Coast. By the original scheme it was intended that the expense of its construction should fall jointly on the inhabitants and the Government, but subsequently, a different arrangement was adopted, the Government taking upon itself the whole expense of the work, leaving for an after consideration the propriety of placing a toll upon the bridge.

5th. The Lighthouse on Kent's Group has been completed, and the light was shown on the 23d January last.

The remainder of the outlay upon Public Works has been principally in repairs to public buildings. The largest expenditure has been upon the Government House. This has been left for so many years without any repair that it became absolutely necessary to incur the expense stated, the whole of the ceilings had to be removed and renewed, various repairs to the floors were required, and the whole was painted inside and out.

During the Government of Sir John Franklin, a plan for a new house on a different site was approved, and the building was commenced, but a portion only of the basement was completed. It would be desirable, I think, to erect a new building upon that site, but upon a better and less expensive plan. The sale of the site of the present building and garden would, in all probability, defray the whole cost of the new building.

Convict Public Works.

The expenditure under this head has been devoted principally to repairs. Ranges of separate cells have been constructed at the prisoners' barracks, and a large addition has been made to the Lunatic Asylum at New Norfolk. At the various probation stations which existed on the main land little was done, but at Darlington on Maria Island the labour of the convicts has been applied to the completion of the separate cells. In the same way, at the stations on Tasman's Peninsula, arrangements have been made for carrying out the principles of separation to as great an extent as possible. At Port Arthur a range of separate apartments on the Pentonville plan have been commenced, with the view of substituting this punishment for transportation, and providing for the effectual coercion and restraint of those classes of prisoners who can now only be effectually controlled in Norfolk Island.

I have already reported to your Lordship fully the steps which have been taken with the view of carrying into effect a better system of discipline than has hitherto prevailed in the convict gangs.

The introduction of a system of task-work, as suggested by your Lordship in your instructions to me, dated 30th September, 1846, has been productive of the best effects wherever it has been brought into full operation: the amount of work executed is fully double of what it used to be under the best system of coerced labour, and the moral effect upon the convicts is also very remarkable; crime diminished to an extraordinary extent in those gangs after its introduction; the convicts, when they were assured that they might by industry and good conduct reduce the period of their sentence, showed in most cases an earnest desire to exert themselves, and while the punishment of a certain period of labour on the roads is now more effective than it was, inasmuch as the offender cannot now be idle but is compelled to work, it is at the same time of a more wholesome character, as tending to give him habits and powers which it is to be hoped may have a partial operation upon him when again let loose upon society.

For Earl Grey's Despatch, Sept. 30, 1846, *vide* Correspondence relative to Convict Discipline and Transportation, presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command, Feb. 16, 1847, p. 56.

The whole course of proceeding as regarded the convict gangs during the last year led in one direction, that of reducing their numbers gradually, and there is now not a single gang upon the mainland of the colony. The whole of the probation gangs are confined to Tasman's Peninsula and Maria Island. There are several bodies of men employed upon various public works, by which the

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Home Government is relieved from the expense of superintendence, and from the cost of providing and maintaining the necessary buildings, and the colony is benefited, inasmuch as the work performed by these men could not be executed, by contract or other means, for more than three times the sum which it will now cost.

There are several stations, completed upon a most expensive plan, scattered about the colony, for which the Government have now no use. In some instances these may, perhaps, be partially appropriated to some public purpose; but when this cannot be done, the buildings must be sold, for the cost of keeping them in repair would be very great, and would answer no good purpose.

Military Buildings.

The public buildings of a military nature have been principally for the accommodation of the troops in Hobart Town, where a large sum is paid annually for the hire of barracks, which will cease on the removal of the 96th Regiment.

Legislation.

In consequence of the abeyance of the Legislative Council, the cause of which has already been reported to your Lordship, no Acts were passed during the year 1847.

Civil and Convict Establishment.

Under this head it may be sufficient to state that the establishments have been, for the most part, authorized by the Secretary of State, and that the changes occasionally made are reported as they occur.

Pensions.

The death of Mr. Mulgrave in April, 1847, has reduced the amount paid by 291*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; but a small pension has been added of Daniel Murphy, a bailiff, who had acted in that capacity for 33 years. This has already been reported in a separate Despatch.

Population.

The return of the census, which was taken at the end of last year, shows that the population of the colony had increased from 57,471, which was the amount in 1843, to 67,918, an increase in five years of 18 per cent.

The increase of the free population has been 7842, while that of the convict population has been 3856.

The increase of the free population has not been owing to any extent to immigration. Indeed, since April, 1846, there has been an emigration from the colony to the extent of 10,012, all of whom must have been free, though a large proportion, amounting perhaps to half of the whole, have been originally convicts.

The convict population will, however, now rapidly diminish. The number of conditional pardons which will be issued annually for several years will amount to between 3000 and 4000; and although a large proportion of these will emigrate, yet a certain number will remain and be added to the free population, so that when the next census is taken in three or four years, the change in the proportion of the free and bond population will be very great.

The returns of the births and deaths would shew that the former exceeded the latter in more than a two-fold proportion.

The returns are compiled from a comparison of those sent by the registrar and those furnished by the clergy. The statement of the deaths, as given by each, agree pretty well, but the register of baptisms as given by the clergy are far more accurate than that of births by the registrar.

On the whole, I see no reason to doubt the general accuracy of the return.

The proportion of males to females is still very great, the excess however is slowly diminishing.

Ecclesiastical.

On the subject of the Ecclesiastical return it is not necessary to say much. I have already written fully to your Lordship as to the mode in which the funds are provided for the payment of the clergy of different denominations, and I need only say that, although the amount expended, when taken in connection with the number of the people, may seem to be large, yet that when compared with the wants of the community, originating in their peculiar position, and their character and habits, it is not nearly sufficient for their wants.

Education.

I have already written to your Lordship very fully on the subject of education.

It will be seen that I have acted upon the instruction conveyed in Mr. Gladstone's Despatch, No. 55, so far as to afford aid to the schools in connection with the Churches of England and Rome, so that parents, who might object to the system of instruction in operation at the Government schools, might have some opportunity of obtaining instruction for their children according to the system approved by their own Church.

The result is embodied in the return now forwarded, and has been so far satisfactory, as that it has afforded some opportunities of instruction to upwards of 1000 children who would otherwise have had none. The question, however, of education is one of the utmost importance in this colony, as from the character of the population it would of course require every effort on the part of instructors to neutralize the effects of the evil example which the parents would in many cases set before their children. It is also essential that the parents should be induced by every means to send their children to school; at present it appears to be a matter of indifference with a large number whether their children are educated or not, and a population is growing up, of whom upwards of two-thirds are receiving no instruction at all.

Coin and Exchange.

There appears to have been a diminution in the amount of bullion in the colony during the past year, the return for 1846 being 357,554*l.*, and that for 1847, 310,089*l.* Large remittances have been made to England and to Sydney by the banks, which will account for the decrease.

When the amount of bullion, however, is compared with that of the notes in circulation, it would appear as if a quantity of capital were lying idle in the coffers of the banks; the deposits however are large, and it is necessary to keep a reserve in hand in order to meet any sudden call which might be made upon the banks by the withdrawal of their deposits.

Imports.

The imports from England have increased from 372,000*l.*, in 1846, to 517,786*l.*, in 1847, while the total imports have increased from 561,238*l.*, in 1846, to 724,593*l.*, in 1847.

The increase in British goods has been pretty general, but the most marked change has been in the comparative importation of cottons and linens, and woollen cloths. The increase in the latter has been very great indeed, while there has been a diminution in the importation of the former. I have no data to enable me to account for so remarkable and sudden a change.

There has been a diminution in the importation of beef and pork, and hams, to a large amount, which would lead to the inference that the colonists were turning their attention to the supply of the article themselves. In the same way the diminished amount of the imports of carriages, casks, deal, furniture and timber, would seem to show that in these articles an effort was being made by the people to avail themselves of the means at their disposal for the supply of their own wants.

There has been a large increase in the importation of sugar, from 23,433*l.* in 1846, to 51,615*l.* in 1847; a portion of this may have been shipped on speculation, but there is a great consumption in breweries, where it is used in place of malt, and I am afraid that a good deal is used in private distilleries.

Exports.

The exports have increased from 582,585*l.* in 1846, to 600,876*l.* in 1847. Of these 338,609*l.* have been sent to England, and the remainder principally to the colonies in this hemisphere. The increase has taken place principally in the two staples, oil and wool. There has been a diminution in the export of flour and grain, while the export of timber staves and bark have increased,

On reference to the three last years, 1845, 1846, and 1847, there appears to be a steady improvement in trade.

On reference to the return of the shipping the same observation may be made; although the number of ships to England has diminished by one, yet the tonnage has increased from 10,122 to 11,150, and the total tonnage has increased from 79,430 to 85,861.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Agriculture.

The quantity of land under cultivation in 1847, is less than in 1846 by 6339 acres, the decrease appears to have been principally in that laid down in wheat.

The low price obtained for the crop of 1846 is, in all probability, the reason of this. The same remark, however, which I made last year as to the slovenly system of agriculture, and the small average crop per acre, are still of course applicable; and as there does not appear to be any probability of the price rising above the average stated in the return, unless such attention is paid to the cultivation of the soil as to make it produce a sufficient crop to remunerate the farmer at that price, the probability is that less still will be cultivated.

I am fully of opinion, however, that with even a moderate amount of attention to the character of the soil, and to the proper mode of cultivation, the prices given are amply sufficient to remunerate the careful farmer, even looking to the very high rate of profit which he has a right to expect.

In many, indeed in most instances, the land is his own; it is burthened with no local assessments of any kind, no poor-rates, county or police-rates, no tithes, no rent, the quality in many instances excellent, the climate most congenial. Steady industry, well directed, is all that can be required. In some instances this is given, and the result then is, that the crops at the average price amply repay the farmer for his outlay.

The tendency, however, is generally to look to the depasturing of sheep as the most profitable occupation; there is no doubt, I imagine, that at present the return upon a given amount of capital expended in the purchase of stock, and the rental of land from the Government, would be larger than if the same amount were spent upon the purchase of land and its cultivation; but, by purchasing the land, especially at the present low price, a man has obtained a secure investment, the return from which is annually increasing. On the other hand, though his sheep keep increasing annually without much cost or trouble to himself, yet he must procure more land to pasture them, and by degrees the multiplication of sheep beyond the means which the colony can supply of feeding them, must lower their price to that which they will yield when boiled down; by degrees then, as land for pasture becomes difficult to find, men will be convinced of the necessity of raising food artificially for their sheep, the land will then come into cultivation, and will be able to maintain ten times the number which it now does without difficulty.

The return of the amount of produce has been drawn out in an unsatisfactory manner, but in point of fact the period at which the account of produce is taken is unfavourable, as the amount of crop can only be taken as an estimate of the quantity in the ground; in many, indeed in most, instances but little of the crop having been housed and none thrashed out.

In the same way as regards the sheep, that is, as regards the numbers in the different districts, there appears a strange discrepancy in the years 1846 and 1847. There is upon the whole a very large increase, but in many districts the number of sheep appears to have diminished; in point of fact, about the time when the numbers are taken, the sheep are, in many instances, moving from the low country to the summer feeding grounds, an alteration of a week or so may make all the difference as to the returns of the relative amount in the different districts.

There appears to be an increase in the number of horses, cattle, and sheep; and though I do not imagine that great confidence can be placed in the absolute accuracy of the returns, yet I am inclined to believe, from other sources of information, that in the fact of the increase they are correct.

Manufactures.

Attention has only just begun to be paid to the manufacture of articles required in the country.

Within the last two years ship building has been taken up, especially at Hobart Town, and on the banks of the Huon. Vessels of every description, from the small river craft of 10 to 20 tons, to vessels for the English trade, of 400 tons and upwards, are constantly in progress. The timber is admirably adapted for such purposes, and the models of the vessels which have been already launched are most creditable to their constructors. The price at which they are built is low, not exceeding 8*l.* per ton.

Casks again are very much wanted for oil, flour, and other exports. Hitherto

most of the casks used were imported, now a very large proportion is manufactured in the colony.

Coal is found in very many places, and I have employed a competent person to inspect and report upon several of the coal fields as to their extent and the quality of the coal. I am in hopes of being able to induce the persons interested in the copper mines of South Australia to ship their copper ore here, in order to be smelted, by which the cost of the freight to England of three tons of rubbish will be saved and a profitable investment of capital be obtained; such an undertaking will be a benefit to the colony as well as to South Australia.

Grants and Sales of Land.

1636 acres of country lots were sold for 1366*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* Two lots of 900 acres and 238 acres having been sold which had been applied for long ago under the old regulations, but which had not before been put up for sale owing to the want of survey.

Town allotments, to the extent of 261 acres, were disposed of for 1440*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* during 1847.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The remarks upon gaols in the Blue Book itself render any further comment on my part unnecessary.

I need only say that I have appointed a commission for the purpose of reporting upon various matters connected with the subject, and when I shall receive their Report I shall submit it to your Lordship with such remarks as may be required.

I hope in the course of a few weeks to be able to transmit to your Lordship various Statistical Returns which I am now preparing, and which will give on many of the subjects alluded to in the Blue Book more detailed and satisfactory information than is therein contained, besides bringing under notice many other subjects of general interest which are not noticed at all.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) W. DENISON.
&c. &c. &c.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(No. 35.) No. 30. No. 30.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting-Governor IRWIN to Earl GREY.

Government House, Perth,
April 13, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received August* 21, 1848.)

ALTHOUGH the alterations in the affairs of this colony since last year are necessarily limited, I am happy to be able to state that the improvement which I then reported to have taken place still continues.

	£.	s.	d.
The revenue received during the past year was	8944	1	5
And exceeds that of 1846	8179	10	2
By	£ 764	11	3
The expenditure of 1847 was . . .	8677	3	1
Of 1846	7838	11	8
Excess of 1847 . . .	£ 838	11	5

Population, exclusive of military :—

1846	4290
1847	4530
Increase in 1847	240

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Laws.

Twenty ordinances have been passed during the year, of which the most important are:—

No. 13. "An Ordinance to provide further Remedies against Trespasses by "Live Stock, and to promote the Construction of Fences;" which had been urgently required to check the practice of allowing stock to roam without a keeper, and to prevent the deterioration of the breed of horses and cattle.

No. 15. "An Ordinance to diminish the Dangers resulting from Bush "Fires;" which is intended to avert the great evils which have resulted from the country being set on fire by the natives and settlers.

No. 19. "An Ordinance to repeal the existing laws respecting the Con- "struction and Management of Roads, and to establish a Central Board of "Works."

The management of the internal communications of the colony was formerly committed to a general road trust.

This system, however, proved inefficient; it having been found extremely difficult to procure a regular and punctual attendance of the members at the periodical and special meetings. A very serious evil also resulted from this partial attendance, that when individuals had any special object to carry by a majority of the votes of the meeting, the end was easily obtained by their engaging the attendance of parties favourable to their views.

The present ordinance was accordingly introduced, which establishes a permanent Central Board of Works, half officers of the Government, and half private individuals resident in Perth and its vicinity, to whom the duties of the general road trust are transferred; and who are also to have the charge of such other public works as may be committed to their management. All applications for the construction and repair of roads and other works are to be sent in to this Board, who, after due consideration, are to submit for the approval of the Governor in executive council such works as they recommend, as well as the distribution of the fund appropriated for this service. It is provided also that Local Boards are to be formed in the different districts, whose duty it will be to convey to the Central Board such information and suggestions as may be required, and to superintend the execution of whatever works may be directed to be carried on in their district. The remaining provisions have been adopted, with little amendment, from the Road Trust Act.

It is confidently expected that the operations of a Board thus constituted will be so effective, and carried on with such impartiality, as, compared with the system now superseded, will give very general satisfaction.

No. 20. "An Ordinance to establish a Toll to be levied on Sandal Wood to "be applied to the Construction of Roads and Lines of Communication."

The great damage caused by the floods of last winter to the public roads, added to the necessity that had long been manifest for rendering the roads through the sandy districts near the coast more fitted for the passage of loaded teams, made it a matter of urgent importance for the Government to provide additional means for this item of expenditure; and it having been ascertained that the sandal wood of the colony brought good and remunerating prices at Singapore and China, and the colonists having very generally commenced cutting and preparing it for embarkation, a toll on this article appeared the easiest and least burthensome mode of creating the additional funds required. And this article has so maintained its price, and the demand continues so steady, that the settlers do not receive less since the imposition of the toll, which falls upon the exporter, and which the latter is well enabled to bear by the profits of the trade.

Ecclesiastical Return.

Arrangements have been made to provide a clergyman for Albany, King George's Sound, which will be carried out in the course of the year, by the transfer of one of the colonial chaplains to that district; as the duty of the Upper Swan, which he vacates, can be performed by the chaplain of the adjoining district.

Education.

From the very inefficient state of the Government school at Perth. I appointed during the past year a General Board of Education; and in conformity with

their suggestions the Government schools, both male and female, were remodelled, new teachers being appointed, and they have been brought into a very effective condition under the able superintendence of the General Committee, aided by the zealous assistance of the Committee of Visitors, especially of the ladies; and there is now consequently a very considerable increase in the number of scholars of both sexes.

The system adopted in the Government school, as set forth in the Report of the General Committee, forwarded in my Despatch No. 13, of January 25th, has met with the approval of the different religious denominations in the colony, the Wesleyan Methodists giving up their own schools, and sending their children to those of the Government.

Imports and Exports.

	£.	s.	d.
Imports during 1846 were . .	25,959	4	4
In 1847	25,463	0	0
Decrease in 1847 . .	£ 496	4	4

	£.	s.	d.
Exports in 1846 amounted to .	20,222	15	4
In 1847	24,535	0	0
Excess in 1847 . .	£ 4,312	4	8

About two-thirds of the wool of this season remains in the colony for want of freight; had it been shipped the exports would have exceeded the imports.

The principal increase under the head of Exports has arisen from the timber of the colony. The trade which has sprung up in sandal wood has been considerable. In 1846 thirty-two tons only were exported. The amount has risen in 1847 to 370¼ tons; and the quantity would have been much larger had the colonists possessed the means of conveying the wood which had been felled and prepared for shipment in the country districts to the port. Several vessels have consequently left in ballast from want of cargoes.

The shipment of timber which was sent from this country in the last year to Her Majesty's Dockyard at Deptford having been highly approved of, on inspection there, as admirably adapted for naval purposes, a prospect of a lucrative trade for the supply of Her Majesty's Navy is thus held out to the colonists.

Samples of this wood, the jarrah or mahogany of the colonists, which is also found so valuable for domestic purposes on account of its indestructibility by the white ant, having been sent to India, seem to have been much approved by the engineers appointed to form the railroad from Calcutta to Delhi. A vessel of the East India Company has since been sent for a cargo of this timber, and 90 tons have been shipped by her at Bunbury. The officers on board reported that there is every probability that a large number of vessels will be sent for cargoes in the course of the year, and that Coolies will also be sent to supply labour to prepare it for shipment.

An effort is now making to establish a company in Calcutta for carryiug on a trade in this timber, by a capitalist who lately left this colony for that purpose; to whom I have conceded the privilege of cutting timber at the present rate of license for 10 years, provided the Company commence operations within 18 months, a portion of the shares of the Company being reserved for the settlers. One part of the proposed plan is the introduction of Coolies from India, by which the expense of preparing the timber for shipment will be much lessened. The value of this timber, so well known to the settlers for many years, appears at last about to attract attention abroad, and will no doubt eventually prove of great service in promoting the progress of this colony. Nothing could tend more to this than the opening up of a regular communication with India. The uncertainty of being able to return within a given time has long prevented this colony from being made an invalid station for India. The introduction of Coolie labour has also long been a desideratum here,

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

though they prove much inferior in point of physical strength and intelligence to the Chinese introduced from Singapore during the past year.

Agriculture.

There appears from the returns a considerable decrease in the number of acres of wheat and barley grown, amounting to upwards of 1000 acres. But this does not arise from a corresponding decrease in cultivation, nearly the whole of this quantity was sown with grain; but owing to the damage occasioned by the extraordinary floods of last year, and the great demand for forage for the teams employed in conveying sandal wood to the coast, the crops were cut down for hay. An increase thus appears under the head of Artificial Pasture of 1266 acres.

Stock.

The increase in live stock amounts to 12,552 head; but the returns in this particular item are not much to be depended upon, as several individuals possessing considerable flocks and herds have refused to give returns, or made such as are well known to be incorrect.

Mines and Fisheries.

The quantity of oil taken in the whale fisheries exceeds that of last season; but being principally black oil, the value of the produce falls short upwards of 1100*l*.

Mines.

Cinnabar has been found in masses on the surface on the lands of private individuals, and a quantity of the ore has been sent home to ascertain its value.

No further discoveries of metalliferous ores of any value have as yet been made within the colony.

In my report of last year I stated that an expedition had been dispatched to examine the coal bed found on the banks of the Irwin. Dr. Von Sommer, the geologist employed by the Government for this purpose, after visiting that locality, traced the coal measures to the Moore River, within 75 miles of Perth, and from their bearing, and the corresponding formation of the country, he considers it probable the coal-field is continued all along from Cape Riche 70 miles eastward of King George's Sound to Shark's Bay 450 miles north of the Swan, with a continuous girdle of good land; and also that, from analogous instances in other parts, where, nearly in equal parallels with two granite formations, the same transitions of secondary rocks occur, there may be expected eastward of the granite table-land along the coast of this colony, the same metalliferous slates and clays which abound at Spencer's Gulf westward of the granite alps of New South Wales.

On the report of the geologist of the strong probability of the existence of coal on the banks of the Swan, from the indications of the strata, I have determined on boring for it at Perth as soon as an apparatus shall have been prepared for the purpose.

I took the opportunity of the colonial schooner proceeding in the course of the year to King George's Sound, to send thither Dr. Von Sommer to report on the geological features of that district, and of that in the vicinity of Cape Riche, where coal was reported to have been found. From the short stay of the vessel at that station, and the horses employed in the exploration having knocked up, the country was only partially examined, and no coal was then discovered. I have subsequently, however, deemed it advisable to send the geologist in the same direction on an overland expedition, accompanied by Mr. Bland, the Protector of Aborigines, to complete the examination of this district, especially the shores of Doubtful Island Bay to the eastward of Cape Riche, where coal is said to crop out.

On his return I have instructed Dr. Von Sommer to diverge from the Williams' district to the coast, to examine the country lying between Capes Naturaliste and Leeuwin, where metalliferous ores have been found at a very early period of the colony.

Land Sales.

The amount of cash paid for Crown land sold during the past financial year amounts to 77*l.* 11*s.* There is also a sum of 100*l.* arising from the same source in the preceding year unexpended. The colony is indebted to the imperial treasury 1000*l.* for advances on account of the introduction of labour, and the above sums are properly applicable to the reduction of this debt. For the present, however, I would recommend that some further time should be allowed to the colony for the payment of the debt owing to the treasury. The want of labour hitherto experienced will this year be pretty well supplied by the recent arrival of 51 youths from the Parkhurst establishment, and by the arrangements which some of the settlers have made for procuring shepherds from home and the neighbouring colonies, as well as by the importation of Chinese, 20 of whom have been already introduced by the colonial schooner, and 60 more are expected to arrive by her in the course of the next month, all of whom are unaccompanied by females.

The present disproportion between the sexes will consequently be further increased by these arrivals, and as female servants are also much required, it is desirable that the small disposable sum above referred to should be expended in sending some out to this colony.

The shepherds referred to above, as having been sent for by private individuals, are to be sent hither in the " Merope," a colonial vessel which sailed for London in the month of February last, and which presents a good opportunity of forwarding on her return such females as may have been selected for this colony, should it be found practicable to afford any relief for this most urgent necessity. On this very important subject I shall beg further to address your Lordship by this mail in a separate despatch.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. C. IRWIN.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(No. 54.) No. 31.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Robe to Earl Grey.

Adelaide, South Australia,
June 15, 1848.

My Lord, (*Received November* 1, 1848.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this province for the year 1847. This document has been longer in course of preparation than I could have wished, but the delay has not been altogether without advantage, as I am enabled to add to the information therein contained, a series of tables in a separate compilation, illustrative of the progress of this colony, during the last four years, and of its general condition during a more extended period. These will, I trust, afford your Lordship very full information in a concise form, upon the advances making by the industry of the colonists; and in respect to the capabilities of this remote portion of the empire, to support and enrich those emigrating to it.

The first table in the Blue Book relates to the schedules of taxes, duties, fees, and other sources of revenue.

These have undergone very little change in 1847. The tariff of import duties underwent amendment in 1846, and although there are in it some anomalies, and room for further amendment, yet it has fully realized the expectations entertained of it, in regard of its productiveness of revenue, and to the facilities of collection over the former system of *ad valorem* duties.

The rates of postage of letters underwent some trifling alterations and reductions in 1847, but their produce increased considerably.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The "city rates" or assessments on houses in Adelaide were raised from sixpence to one shilling in the pound in 1847, but more than double the amount of the whole of such rates, has been expended upon the streets, under votes of the Legislative Council.

Fees on cattle impounded for trespass were established in 1847, under an ordinance of the Legislature, and in the same year fees were fixed for services rendered by the coroners, in lieu of salary.

The abstract of net revenue and expenditure for 1847 shows increase of revenue over the produce of 1846, in almost every item. It may facilitate the forming a correct judgment upon the productiveness of the several principal sources of revenue, if I briefly enumerate the rates of increase on the year.

Duties of Customs on imports:—

On spirits an increase of	23 per cent.
On tobacco	24 „
On wines	98 „
On other goods	35 „
On other Customs' receipts	67 „
On the general receipts of Customs	29 „

The other sources of revenue show corresponding increase in 1847:—

Postages	36 per cent.
Fees of offices	38 „
Of which the registry fees	44 „
Fines	36 „
Licenses	27 „
Auction duty	166 „
And on the gross revenue	39 „

The auction duty has increased very largely, which is attributable in great measure to the admission of goods to free warehousing, under the Ordinance No. 16, of 1846.

I do not think that such a duty is quite consistent with the freedom of a port as it operates as an additional charge on goods imported by transient traders calling at the port to try the market, and whose advent it is desirable to encourage for the sake of our exportable produce. The auction duty yielded, in 1847, 1458*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, but I feel very much disposed to relinquish it altogether if the Legislative Council, on a reconsideration of the Customs tariff, will go with me in such an amendment as will render it more equable, as I think that the increased facilities to commerce thus afforded will fully compensate in another way for the loss of revenue by the abolition of the auction duty.

The increase on the produce of the assessment on stock has been omitted in the foregoing statement of ratios, because the receipts of 1847 include a large portion of the assessment due for, but not paid in 1846, whereby they appear greater than in reality they should do. The assessments should show an increase of about 22 per cent., such being the rates of the natural increase of the flocks as ascertained by the quantities of wool exported.

In the public expenditure the increase in 1847 over 1846 has been—

On salaries	20 per cent.
Contingent and miscellaneous expenses	116 „

These ratios may be further divided as follows:—

On salaries of civil officers	22 per cent.
On the civil contingencies	68 „
On judicial salaries	13 „
On judicial contingencies	132 „
The ecclesiastical establishment	Nil.
Ecclesiastical contingencies	143 „
Public works and improvements	301 „
Miscellaneous expenses	19 „
On the total expenditure of the year	58 „

The total revenue of the year, exclusive of the arrears brought forward from 1846, has been 67,027*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, and the total expenditure, exclusive of repayments to the land fund of debts of former years, has been 58,979*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* Including those repayments, the expenditure was 66,799*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, being 228*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, within the actual revenue of the year, whilst all the debt has been paid off.

This Government contributed nothing in 1847 towards the military defence of the province. One Company of the line is stationed here, the expense of which is defrayed by Great Britain, the commissariat officer in charge of the military chest, receiving from time to time from the local Government such sums as may be required for the military service, by way of advance, to be repaid from the Imperial Treasury in England for the service of emigration to South Australia.

The militia of the province is at present merely a nominal force, without organization under legislative enactment. I have already caused a Militia Bill to be prepared, which it is my purpose to submit for the consideration of the Legislative Council at an early date.

The return of Public Works, completed or in progress is rather longer than has heretofore appeared in the Blue Book. It would have been more extensive had labour been more abundant. The greater part of the expense of these works has been defrayed under special votes of the legislative. Of these sanctioned by myself, the expense has for the most part, fallen under a general vote for works unforeseen at the time that the estimates were under consideration. The roads, bridges, and streets have engrossed the principal portion of this expenditure.

All changes in the "Civil Establishment," have been reported to your Lordship as they occurred, or in the Quarterly Returns regularly transmitted where increase of salaries occurs, it has been under votes of the Legislature in the appropriation ordinances of 1846 approved by your Lordship.

The "population" of the colony appears to have increased about 20 per cent. during the year 1847, of which increase, one tenth is stated to be due to the excess of births over deaths, and the remainder to the excess of immigration over emigration; of the increase from the latter source, two-thirds are due to the Government immigration, at the public cost, and one-third at the cost of the individuals. The return shows a large increase in the numbers of the Aboriginal natives; this, however, is merely due to improved means of ascertaining these numbers. It is even yet a very imperfect census.

The ecclesiastical return shows an improvement over the preceding year. No mention is made in it of the Lord Bishop of Adelaide, or of the clergy brought out by his Lordship, as they only arrived at the very close of the year.

The ecclesiastical return shows an increase in 1847 of 69 per cent. of children attending Sunday-schools, and of 32 per cent. of day scholars, These results may be attributed partly to the Government grants in aid of religion and education, partly to increased exertions of those advocating the voluntary principle, caused by the agitation of the question of state support, and partly to the increase of the population.

The number of children attending schools is still very small, compared with the population, the inducements to earn wages by the labour of children being such as to lead many parents to forego for them the advantages of education, the value of which they do not fully appreciate.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at 40,000*l.*

The return of imports and exports show the increase of the value of imports to have been 24 per cent. in 1847. This is not, however, a very satisfactory table from which to draw comparison between the imports and exports of this or more consecutive years, because December and January are the months of the greatest commercial activity at Port Adelaide, and fair or foul winds may accelerate or retard the arrival or departure of ships, and so cause their cargoes to fall within the returns of one or the other year; and because an early or a late season will bring the crops of grain and wool to market in December or in January, as the case may be. Much greater accuracy of result would be obtained if these as well as the agricultural returns were made for the financial year ending on the 31st March.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

By the return of agriculture it appears that the number of acres in crop have increased about 9 per cent, and those enclosed about 6 per cent., during the year, chiefly in barley and oats. The vineyards have also extended considerably, and I have very little doubt that this province will one day become a wine exporting country.

The olive and mulberry are also successfully cultivated, though not yet in sufficient quantity to appear separately in the statistical returns.

The stock which appears in the table, is only that which is depastured on the waste lands of the Crown. It embraces nearly all the sheep of the colony, but not all the horses and horned cattle, as many of these are home fed, or depastured on private lands. At present there are no effectual means of arriving at a correct knowledge of the number of horses and horned cattle so fed.

There have been little or no additions to the mines in 1847, the number on the list being the same as in the Blue Book of 1846. The amount of available labour in the province being insufficient for the profitable working of more than a few of those already opened. Metallic ores continue to be discovered in new localities, but the richer lodes alone engross the principal part of the mining labour. One shipment of emery took place in 1847, and cobalt is said to have been recently discovered.

The quantity of Crown Lands sold in 1847 was considerably less than during the preceding year; owing chiefly to the discontinuance of the sale of special surveys of 20,000 acres, and because I considered it prudent to limit the quantity of land offered for sale by auction, so as not to withdraw too much capital from circulation, until the funds already collected by the sales of land, had been expended on emigration. Most of the lands sold in 1847 have been put up to auction on special applications from individual colonists.

The enclosure wall of the gaol of Adelaide, has been completed, whereby the prison is now secure, but the divisional walls for the better classification of prisoners, have not been commenced, owing to the press of other work. I am in hopes, however, that this necessary work will be accomplished in the course of the current year.

I now beg to direct your Lordship's attention to the printed statistical returns already mentioned.

These tables embrace the statistics of this province for four years, from 1844 to 1847, and the concluding table affords a general review from 1840 to 1847. To have extended the whole of the tables over eight years, would have much increased their bulk, and the labour of collecting the necessary information, the material for such compilation being less perfect in former years.

The year 1844 may also be considered as the first in which the effect of the Acts of Parliament for the better government of South Australia, and for regulating the sales of crown lands, began to be felt in the colony, they having come into operation in 1843. The effect of the discovery of metallic ores upon the wealth of the colony, dates also from 1844, though its effect upon immigration did not appear until 1846.

I do not propose to enter into detailed examination of these tables, as I trust they will speak for themselves, but merely to make a few general remarks upon them.

The population (table 1) has increased about 64 per cent. in the four years, the immigration at private cost rather exceeding that at the expense of the Land Fund. By table 4, it appears that the balance of immigration from, and emigration to the other Australian colonies, is in favour of South Australia.

The imports and exports (table 5) show a vast increase in the four years, equivalent to 257 per cent. on imports, and 268 per cent. on exports.

As the exports are affected by imports re-exported, and by causes already explained, in drawing comparison between the years 1846 and 1847, the table 6 has been prepared to show the exports of the produce of the colony during the four financial years.

From this return it will be seen, that notwithstanding the great increase of population, the quantity of wheat and flour exported, maintains itself, whilst its price has increased 50 fold, to cover the increased price of wages. Copper ore has become the principal staple export, in value from 10,000*l.* to 200,000*l.* increase in the four years. Wool shows a steady increase in quantity.

Tables 7 and 8 are instructive, the former showing that in the four years the revenue has increased 142 per cent., whilst the expenditure has only augmented 100 per cent. Public works and improvements forming a large item in such increase. The latter showing the somewhat rapid progress of bringing the ordinary expenditure within the revenue; the excess of revenue in the latter years having been applied in the repayment of debts formerly contracted.

This process is, perhaps, better shown in the return No. 29, the last of the series, wherein the amount of Government expenditure and revenue for the last eight years is given.

This return as well as others preceding it, afford me the satisfactory reflection, that I shall be able to hand over the government to my successor without a debt, and with a sufficient revenue, exclusive of the land fund, to meet the current and growing requirements of his administration.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

FRED. H. ROBE,
Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 31.

Encl. in No. 31.

STATISTICS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CONTENTS.

No.		Page
1.	Population, 1844–1847	245
2.	Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1844–1847	246
3.	Vessels Inwards and Outwards, and Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide, 1844–1847	247
4.	Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide, 1844–1847	247
5.	Imports and Exports, 1844–1847	248
6.	Exports the Produce of South Australia, 1845–1848	249
7.	Revenue and Expenditure, 1844–1847	251
8.	Revenue and Expenditure for each quarter of the years 1844–1847	252
9.	Disposal of Crown Lands, 1844–1847	252
10.	Places of Worship in South Australia	253
11. 12.	Sunday and other Schools, with average number of Scholars attending them during the years 1844–1847	253
13.	Letters and Newspapers passing through the General Post Office, 1844–1847	254
14.	Number of Patients in the Government Hospital, 1844–1847	254
15.	Publicans' Licenses, from 1844–1847	254
16.	Return of Public Houses, 1844–1847	254
17.	Mines in the Province at the close of the year 1847	255
18.	Manufactories and Works in the Province, 1844–1847	255
19.	Quantity of Land under cultivation, 1844–1847	256
20.	Stock assessed for the years 1844–1847	256
21.	Farm Produce at Adelaide, 1844–1847	256
22.	Prices paid for Bread and Fresh Meat by the Commissariat at Adelaide, 1844–1847	256
23.	Number of Offenders convicted in the Supreme Court, 1844–1847	257
24.	Cases heard and determined in the Magistrates' Courts, 1844–1847	257
25.	Fiats in Insolvency issued in the Province, 1844–1847	258
26.	Number and Nature of Writs passed through the Sheriff's Office, 1844–1847	258
27.	Amount of Mortgages on Land registered during years 1844–1847	258
28.	Liabilities secured by Bills of Sale, Judgments, and Warrants of Attorney, registered during years 1844–1847	258
29.	General Condition of South Australia at the close of each year, from 1840 to 1847	259

No. 1.

RETURN of the Population of South Australia, for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847, inclusive.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Aborigines in Settled Districts. (Estimated at)
1844	10,733	8,266	18,999	1,600
1845	12,388	9,371	21,759	1,600
1846	14,711	11,182	25,893	1,600
1847	17,531	13,622	31,153	3,680

NOTE.—The last census was taken in March, 1846, at which date the population amounted to 12,740 males, 9650 females; making a total of 22,390.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ANALYSIS of the Increase of Population since the commencement of the Year 1845.

The Population of the Province of South Australia on the 1st January, 1845, amounted to					18,999
	Immigrants whose Passage was defrayed from the Land Fund.	Excess of Immigrants arriving at their own Cost, over Emigrants from the Province.	Excess of Births over Deaths registered.	Totals.	
During the year 1845 the following increase took place.	172	2,118	470	2,760	
Ditto 1846 ditto . .	1,469	2,088	577	4,134	
Ditto 1847 ditto . .	3,257	1,504	499	5,260	
Totals . . .	4,898	5,710	1,546	12,154	12,154
Population on the 1st January, 1848					31,153

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

No. 2.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths registered in the Province of South Australia, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

BIRTHS.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1844	354	317	671
1845	380	328	708
1846	483	454	937
1847	544	450	994

MARRIAGES.

Solemnized.	1844	1845	1846	1847
In the Church of England	57	77	139	218
In the Church of Scotland	21	29	21	20
In the Roman Catholic Chapel	10	10	17	45
In the German Lutheran Church	6	2	17	22
In the Congregational Chapel	11	9	13	23
In the Methodist Chapel	2	11	10	7
In the Primitive Methodist Chapel	..	..	2	2
In the Office of the Deputy Registrar, Adelaide .	1	..	..	..
In the ditto ditto Port Lincoln	..	3	..	..
By Missionaries	..	..	..	9
Of the Jewish Religion	..	..	..	1
	110	141	220	346

DEATHS.

Year.	7 Years and under.	From 7 to 14	14 to 21	21 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 83	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1844	81	4	4	17	20	6	5	2	1	75	63	140
1845	147	8	6	19	28	22	3	3	2	143	95	238
1846	244	15	6	19	31	26	12	5	2	208	152	360
1847	317	20	16	39	53	32	12	4	2	301	194	495

NOTE—This Return merely shows the number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths actually registered in the Province; there are, at present, no satisfactory data for estimating the number of those unregistered.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

No. 3.

RETURN of Vessels Inwards and Outwards, and of Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

INWARDS AND IMMIGRATION.

	1844.						1845.					
	No. of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.			No. of Ships.	Tons.	Men.	Passengers.		
				Adults.		Children				Adults.		Children
				M.	F.					M.	F.	
Great Britain . .	8	2,546	645	59	32	29	12	3,976	196	131	105	63
British Colonies. .	60	6,245		470	160	179	97	8,441	752	1,057	342	389
Foreign States . .	2	739		51	41	93	5	1,378	64	84	62	103
Totals . . .	70	9,530	645	580	233	301	114	13,795	1,012	1,272	509	555

	1846.						1847.					
Great Britain . .	20	8,199	397	653	545	537	28	13,712	678	1,346	1,187	1,193
British Colonies. .	111	14,320	1,044	1,140	407	488	115	15,421	1,166	693	251	259
Foreign States . .	11	2,959	209	276	162	250	7	2,628	101	279	171	267
Totals . . .	142	25,478	1,650	2,069	1,114	1,275	150	31,761	1,945	2,318	1,609	1,719

OUTWARDS AND EMIGRATION.

	1844.						1845.					
Great Britain . .	7	2,279	587	36	17	19	7	2,215	107	29	16	11
British Colonies. .	59	6,196		159	48	53	93	8,613	691	301	56	23
Foreign States . .	2	377		2	2	..	11	1,935	186	10	2	1
Totals . . .	68	8,852	587	197	67	72	111	12,763	984	339	74	35

	1846.						1847.					
Great Britain . .	20	6,671	309	61	29	24	16	5,572	245	45	24	30
British Colonies. .	106	15,124	1,031	520	122	103	125	22,156	1,397	522	156	102
Foreign States . .	10	2,236	208	4	..	..	10	3,152	153	5	1	..
Totals . . .	136	24,031	1,548	585	151	127	151	30,880	1,795	572	181	132

Compiled from authentic official records.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 3, 1848.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

No. 4.

RETURN of Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

	Immigration from.				Emigration to.			
	1844	1845	1846	1847	1844	1845	1846	1847
Great Britain—								
Bristol	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Leith	14	..	4	24	..	..	..	..
Liverpool	5	4	1	15	..	8	5	..
London	101	295	1,730	3,686	72	48	86	32
Swansea	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	67
British Colonies—								
Cape of Good Hope . .	8	2	29	6	9	2	1	24
Calcutta	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Guernsey	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Hong-kong	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
Mauritius	1	8	7	6	..	9	7	11
Singapore	2	22	10	55	..	2	2	4
New South Wales—								
Melbourne	142	125	124	133	16	53	111	141
Portland	38	73	52	73	14	11	63	129
Sydney	205	252	511	442	95	99	233	222

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Return of Immigration and Emigration at Port Adelaide—*continued.*

	Immigration from.				Emigration to.			
	1844	1845	1846	1847	1844	1845	1846	1847
Van Diemen's Land—								
Circular Head . . .	20	14	7	2	..	..	..	..
Hobart Town . . .	169	527	468	231	60	70	112	104
Launceston	160	499	697	184	52	105	193	108
Western Australia . . .	53	113	126	67	25	18	23	35
New Zealand	13	153	3	..	..	8	..	..
Foreign States—								
Bahia	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Batavia	..	..	8	..	..	2	2	..
Boston	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bourbon	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Bremen	185	244	679	716	..	..	..	..
Canton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cape de Verds . . .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chusan	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
Guam	..	..	..	..	2	5	1	1
Manila	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Sandwich Islands . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Seychelles	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
South Seas (whaling voyage)	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
Timor	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Totals . . .	1,114	2,336	4,458	5,646	347	445	863	885
	347	445	863	885				
Excess of Immigration .	767	1,891	3,595	4,761				

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

No. 5.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Official Value of Imports into and Exports from South Australia, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

IMPORTS.

From	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Great Britain . . .	63,635	10	11	103,797	8	6	174,689	0	1	235,374	6	0
British Colonies . .	54,693	14	6	75,848	9	11	141,661	19	6	166,475	13	6
Foreign States . .	586	1	6	5,174	0	0	13,748	13	2	8,975	10	0
Totals . . .	118,915	6	11	184,819	18	5	330,099	12	9	410,825	9	6
Imports re-exported .	13,004	0	10	16,658	18	7	25,778	5	0	75,233	0	2
Imports consumed in the Colony . . .	105,911	6	1	168,160	19	10	304,321	7	9	335,592	9	4

EXPORTS.

To	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Great Britain* . .	60,785	8	6	97,600	0	6	218,095	10	0	166,080	2	0
British Colonies . .	32,451	15	0	41,075	9	6	92,340	7	6	170,360	17	8
Foreign States . . .	2,035	11	0	9,783	14	7	2,402	5	0	13,907	12	6
Totals . . .	95,272	14	6	148,459	4	7	312,838	2	6	350,348	12	2
Imports re-exported .	13,004	0	10	16,658	18	7	25,778	5	0	75,233	0	2
Total Exports the Produce of the Colony .	82,268	13	8	131,800	6	0	287,059	17	6	275,115	12	0

* As it frequently occurs that the ships for Great Britain do not leave Port Adelaide until the commencement of the year succeeding that with the produce of which they are loaded, a Return like the present (to the 31st December in each year), in which the value of the produce of one season is blended in uncertain proportions with that of another, is of little use for the purpose of contrasting the value of the produce of successive years. The Return on the next page, however, being made up to the 5th of April in each year, will more accurately show the progressive increase in the quality and value of all the articles of Colonial Exports.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No 6.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Exports, the Produce of South Australia, during he Years ending the 4th April, 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848.

Article.	Year ending 4th April, 1845.				Year ending 4th April, 1846.			
	Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Alkali	. .	.	.		5c.	1	0	0
Animals living—Cattle	32	120	0	0	36	200	0	0
Goats	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Horses	. .	.	.		1	20	0	0
Sheep	150	85	0	0	1,000	510	0	0
Bacon and hams	92c. 3q.	259	12	0	114c. 2q. 4 lbs.	274	5	0
Bark	549t. 15c.	1,812	0	0	466t. 14c.	2,380	0	0
Beef and pork	. .	.	.		23c.	36	0	0
Beer	. .	.	.		27 galls.	4	10	0
Bones	. .	.	.		2 tons	5	0	0
Boots and shoes	. .	.	.		1 case	5	0	0
Bread and biscuit	6t. 4c.	88	0	0	60t. 17c. 3q. 4 lbs	956	5	0
Butter	21t. 14c. 1q.	1,089	0	8	291c. 0q. 3 lbs.	1,344	10	0
Cheese	5t. 14c. 1q.	313	15	6	250c. 2q. 4 lbs.	685	4	0
Corn—Barley	46¾qrs.	61	3	0	313⅛qrs.	368	0	0
Bran	341½qrs.	191	0	0	877⅛qrs.	341	14	0
Maize	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Malt	. .	.	.		17¼qrs.	31	0	0
Oats	. .	.	.		192⅝qrs.	197	0	0
Pease	. .	.	.		4c.	4	0	0
Pollard	. .	.	.		7 tons	50	0	0
Wheat	10,216¼qrs.	11,673	16	6	12,040¾qrs.	16,568	14	6
Flour	798t. 10c. 2q.	7,844	7	0	1,133t. 13c. 3q.	12,409	0	0
Eggs	. .	9	2	6	50 dozen	1	10	0
Feathers	. .	.	.		30lbs.	2	0	0
Fish	. .	.	.		. .	1	0	0
Fruit	. .	.	.		4 ton (melons)	14	0	0
Galls	3c.	7	10	0	. .	.	.	
Garlick	. .	5	0	0	. .	.	.	
Gum	124t. 18c. 2q.	2,557	15	0	321t. 11c. 3q.	6,760	0	0
Guano	. .	0	10	0	. .	.	.	
Hay	. .	30	0	0	11t. 12c.	50	0	0
Hides and skins	. .	101	18	0	. .	74	0	0
Hoofs and bones	. .	.	.		1½ tons	7	0	0
Horns	1,240	6	0	0	1,531	7	0	0
Jam	. .	.	.		. .	3	0	0
Lard	8c.	20	5	0	12c. 1q. 12 lbs.	43	0	0
Lead, pig	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Leather	1t. 15c.	264	0	0	2 cwt.	10	10	0
Oil, black	114½ tuns.	2,635	10	0	105½ tuns	2,205	0	0
,, sperm	1 tun	55	0	0	. .	.	.	
Onions	74 bushels	17	6	0	6 cwt.	5	0	0
Ore—Copper	664⅝t.	10,350	15	6	2,691t. 7c. 1q. 19 lbs.	58,395	0	0
Emery	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Lead	273t. 16c.	3,133	8	0	188t. 19c. 3q.	1,919	0	0
Plants and seeds	. .	22	0	0	. .	9	0	0
Potatoes	. .	.	.		29t. 5c.	167	0	0
Reaping machine	. .	63	10	0	. .	101	0	0
Salt	86½t.	285	10	0	144t. 10c.	502	0	0
Slate and stone	. .	10	0	0	. .	97	0	0
Soap	. .	.	.		1 cwt.	1	5	0
Specimens of Natural History	. .	65	0	0	. .	149	0	0
Tallow	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Timber	. .	6	0	0	. .	15	0	0
Tongues	. .	.	.		2q. 24 lbs.	2	0	0
Whalebone	124c. 3q.	608	0	0	121c. 2q. 22lbs.	699	0	0
Wheels	. .	.	.		. .	15	0	0
Wine	28 galls.	18	4	0	. .	.	.	
Wood—Boat knees	. .	.	.		1,164	29	0	0
Paling	. .	10	0	0	1,200	8	0	0
Plank	. .	.	.		9 loads	15	0	0
Wool	1,078,559 lbs.	60,162	1	0	1,473,186 lbs.	82,972	7	0
Totals	. .	103,981	19	8	. .	190,669	14	6

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Comparative Return of Exports, the Produce of South Australia, during the Years ending the 4th April, 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848.

Article.	Year ending 4th April, 1847.				Year ending 4th April, 1848.			
	Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Alkali	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Animals, living—Cattle	22	135	0	0	. .	.	.	
Goats	. .	.	.		104	10	0	0
Horses	. .	.	.		1	50	0	0
Sheep	215	175	0	0	450	400	0	0
Bacon and hams	18c. 1q. 21 lbs.	54	0	0	17c. 1q. 12 lbs.	58	0	0
Bark	24t. 15c.	99	0	0	. .	.	.	
Beef and pork	4 barrels	20	0	0	130c.	133	0	0
Beer	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Bones	2t. 5c.	5	0	0	4 tons	10	0	0
Boots and shoes	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Bread and biscuit	48t. 12c.	728	10	0	31 tons	326	0	0
Butter	220c. 5 lbs.	1,001	10	0	12c.	70	0	0
Cheese	30c. 1q. 17 lbs.	96	3	0	50c. 2q.	136	0	0
Corn—Barley	425qrs.	615	0	0	309qrs.	615	0	0
Bran	855⅜qrs.	469	0	0	2,016qrs.	1,146	1	0
Maize	. .	.	.		6 bushels	2	0	0
Malt	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Oats	38qrs.	45	0	0	24qrs.	30	0	0
Pease	. .	.	.		5⅛qrs.	16	0	0
Pollard	10 tons	50	0	0	11 tons	78	0	0
Wheat	10,119⅛qrs.	18,212	19	0	10,005½qrs.	19,095	0	0
Flour	1,364t. 19c. 1q.	15,617	0	0	1,003t. 10c.	11,905	10	0
Eggs	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Feathers	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Fish	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Fruit	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Galls	. .	.	.		. .	5	0	0
Garlick	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Gum	26t. 15c. 3q. 3 lbs.	1,328	10	0	40t. 9c.	831	0	0
Guano	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Hay	60t. 3c.	266	0	0	2t. 11c.	15	0	0
Hides and skins	. .	115	10	0	. .	382	0	0
Hoofs and bones	. .	.	.		1 ton	4	0	0
Horns	. .	.	.		4,224	26	0	0
Jam	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Lard	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Lead, pig	17c.	20	0	0	10t. 9c. 24 lbs.	203	0	0
Leather	2c. 2q. 17 lbs.	12	0	0	121c. 2q.	528	0	0
Oil, black	9 tuns	1,760	0	0	20 tuns.	360	0	0
,, sperm	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Onions	3c.	3	0	0	. .	.	.	
Ore—Copper	6,921t. 12c. 2q.	142,060	0	0	10,631t. 19c. 3q.	199,134	0	0
Emery	. .	.	.		68 tons	700	0	0
Lead	60t. 5c.	580	0	0	270t. 17c. 3q. 18lbs	3,954	0	0
Plants and seeds	. .	2	0	0	. .	32	0	0
Potatoes	11t. 10c.	58	0	0	3 tons	20	0	0
Reaping machine	. .	.	.		1	75	0	0
Salt	256t. 12c.	717	0	0	. .	.	.	
Slate and stone	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Soap	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Specimens of Natural History	. .	71	0	0	. .	141	0	0
Tallow	. .	.	.		1922c.	3,422	0	0
Timber	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Tongues	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Whalebone	114c. 3q. 11 lbs.	637	0	0	139c. 2q. 15 lbs.	942	0	0
Wheels	. .	.	.		. .	.	.	
Wine	. .	.	.		25 galls.	5	0	0
Wood—Boat knees	114	5	0	0	. .	.	.	
Paling	3 loads	10	0	0	. .	.	.	
Plank	7 loads	20	0	0	. .	.	.	
Wool	1,804,918 lbs.	90,183	3	6	2,329,134 lbs.	110,047	13	0
Totals	. .	275,171	10	6	. .	354,907	4	0

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 7.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Nett Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

REVENUE.

	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Customs (including pilotage and tonnage dues)	20,124	17	0	25,590	16	7	37,643	7	5	48,742	13	9
Postage	752	10	8	946	4	10	1,108	18	4	1,504	9	1
Fees—Public Offices	1,689	9	4	2,207	2	0	2,561	12	7	3,533	2	8
Fines—Law Courts	274	13	10	347	15	8	175	2	1	237	19	4
Licences	2,156	15	2	2,409	15	0	2,941	5	3	3,733	0	0
Auction duty	563	13	4	570	8	11	546	11	5	1,458	7	3
Assessment on live stock	1,486	3	11	2,191	14	7	*1,341	16	6	*4,860	8	6
Permits	44	4	0	52	2	0	47	9	6	..		
Storage of gunpowder	24	6	11	65	10	5	155	16	0	174	6	9
Tolls	..			..			280	10	0	254	0	0
City rates	..			..			70	19	0	1,181	0	2
Total fixed revenue	27,116	14	2	34,381	10	0	46,871	8	1	65,679	7	6
Incidental	761	18	8	1,800	19	10	1,146	2	1	1,348	8	8
Total revenue	27,878	12	10	36,182	9	10	48,017	10	2	67,027	16	2
Deduct from each year the revenue of the preceding one	..			27,878	12	10	36,182	9	10	48,017	10	2
Increase on each year	..			8,303	17	0	11,835	0	4	19,010	6	0

* The circumstance of a large proportion of the assessments *due* for 1846 not having been collected until 1847, accounts for the apparent decrease in this branch of the revenue in the former year, and its increase in the latter.

EXPENDITURE.

	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Civil establishment	17,293	10	5	17,507	14	2	18,303	13	6	22,262	14	1
Contingent expenditure	2,017	19	7	3,133	15	10	4,001	18	6	6,722	7	0
Judicial establishment	3,636	2	10	3,421	18	7	3,637	8	8	4,126	11	4
Contingent expenditure	258	8	8	245	13	8	468	17	10	1,087	1	2
Ecclesiastical establishment	214	0	11	350	0	0	350	0	0	350	0	0
Contingent expenditure	..			..			777	12	0	1,892	2	0
Public buildings and works	509	19	7	2,728	17	1	3,896	3	3	*15,646	12	8
Miscellaneous	5,523	8	8	4,711	4	1	5,772	4	1	6,891	16	1
Totals	29,453	10	8	32,099	3	5	37,207	17	10	58,979	12	4
Deduct expenditure of previous years	..			29,453	10	8	32,099	3	5	37,207	17	10
Increase on each year	..			2,645	12	9	5,108	14	5	21,771	14	6

* The great increase of expenditure during the year 1847 was occasioned by the number of public works—bridges, buildings, &c., completed, or which were in course of completion, during that year.

NOTE.—In addition to the above annual expenditure, the following repayments have been made from the Colonia Revenue on account of debts incurred by the local Government prior to the year 1844, viz., to Her Majesty's Treasury, the sum of 1274*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, paid in 1844 in liquidation of claims incurred in the year 1841; to the Land Fund, 984*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* in the year 1844; 1800*l.* in the year 1845; 9000*l.* in the year 1846; and 7820*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* in the year 1847.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 2, 1848.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 8.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of the Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure of the Province for each Quarter of the Years, 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Year.	Quarter ending.	Amount of Revenue.	Amount of Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1844	31 March	7,328 15 8	6,887 8 7	441 7 1	. .
	30 June	5,015 10 10	8,424 2 5	. .	3,408 11 7
	30 Sept.	6,204 17 1	6,701 19 3	. .	497 2 2
	31 Dec.	9,329 9 3	7,440 2 5	1,889 6 10	. .
	Totals .	27,878 12 10	29,453 12 8	2,330 13 11	3,905 13 9
1845	31 March	8,786 11 11	6,689 16 5	2,096 15 6	. .
	30 June	7,805 8 2	8,516 18 10	. .	711 10 8
	30 Sept.	7,983 17 0	7,953 15 10	30 1 2	. .
	31 Dec.	11,606 12 9	8,938 12 4	2,668 0 5	. .
	Totals .	36,182 9 10	32,099 3 5	4,794 17 1	711 10 8
1846	31 March	10,958 14 3	9,741 10 5	1,217 3 10	. .
	30 June	10,180 17 4	8,878 19 0	1,301 18 4	. .
	30 Sept.	11,328 16 9	9,841 15 6	1,487 1 3	. .
	31 Dec.	15,549 1 10	8,745 12 11	6,803 8 11	. .
	Totals .	48,017 10 2	37,207 17 10	10,809 12 4	. .
1847	31 March	17,616 16 10	12,898 15 4	4,718 1 6	. .
	30 June	15,586 6 7	13,722 19 2	1,863 7 5	. .
	30 Sept.	14,085 12 8	16,152 10 0	. .	2,066 17 4
	31 Dec.	19,739 0 1	16,205 7 10	3,533 12 3	. .
	Totals .	67,027 16 2	58,979 12 4	18,115 1 2	2,066 17 4

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

No. 9.

COMPARATIVE RETURN relative to the Disposal of the Crown Lands of South Australia, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Date.	Quantity of Land Sold.	Average price per Acre.	Mode of Sale.	Total Amount of Purchase Money Received in England.	Total Amount of Purchase Money Received in South Australia.	Proportion of Purchase Money Received in each Year.
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1844	1,496¼	2 6 4¾	Auction	100 0 0	5,566 13 0	5,666 13 0
	1,931⅜	1 2 8¾	Fixed price			
1845	5,675	1 11 3½	Auction	. .	52,902 8 0	52,902 8 0
	43,983	1 0 0 19/100	Fixed price			
1846	11,193 22/100	4 9 8½	Auction	21,720 1 0	76,874 8 0	98,594 9 0
	48,209	1 0 0	Fixed price			
1847	16,911 30/100	1 2 7 19/100	Auction	907 19 0	35,428 18 0	36,336 17 0
	18,092	1 0 0	Fixed price			

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 10.

RETURN of the Number and Description of Places of Worship in South Australia, Specifying the Locality, Amount of Accommodation, and Average Congregation of each.

Situation.	Church of England.			Church of Scotland.			Dissenting Chapels.		
	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.
Adelaide	2	1050	750	2	750	200	9	1950	1230
Port Adelaide and Albert Town	1	200	120	..	..	..	1	100	80
Villages around Adelaide	2	310	160	..	..	..	16	1640	660
Willunga District	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	350	145
Encounter Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	30
Gawler Town	1	260	80	..	..	..	4	1060	790
Kooringa	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	240	240
Mount Barker	3	330	200	..	..	..	4	410	220
Totals in 1847	9	2150	1310	2	750	200	39	5850	3395
„ 1846	7	1850	1060	2	750	240	31	4700	2465
„ 1845	5	1210	840	2	360	140	31	4700	2335
„ 1844	5	1210	790	2	360	140	26	3580	2000

Situation.	Society of Friends.			Roman Catholics.		
	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.	No. of Places of Worship	Adapted to contain.	Average No. of Congregation.
Adelaide	1	100	12	1	700	530
Port Adelaide and Albert Town	..	..	..	..	..	..
Villages around Adelaide	..	..	..	..	..	..
Willunga District	..	..	..	1	150	50
Encounter Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gawler Town	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kooringa	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mount Barker	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals in 1847	1	100	12	2	850	580
„ 1846	1	100	20	2	650	390
„ 1845	1	200	15	2	550	470
„ 1844	1	200	15	1	300	300

The information contained in this Return has been obtained from private sources, not from authentic official records, and its accuracy cannot, therefore, be confidently relied upon.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848. A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Nos. 11 and 12.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Sunday and other Schools in the Province of South Australia, and of the Average Number of Scholars attending them, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.				Total Average Number of Scholars.
		European.		Native.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
SUNDAY SCHOOLS.						
1844	19	554	545	34	26	1159
1845	26	617	582	37	29	1265
1846	24	560	511	38	31	1140
1847	32	930	918	50	28	1926
OTHER SCHOOLS.						
1844	26	316	311	51	41	719
1845	55	780	690	37	29	1536
1846	44	842	699	38	31	1610
1847	54	1057	992	50	28	2127

The information contained in this Return has been obtained from private sources, not from authentic official records, and its accuracy cannot, therefore, be confidently relied upon.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848. A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 13.

RETURN showing the Total Number of Letters and Newspapers passing through the General Post Office, distinguishing Ship from Inland, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Number of Post Offices.	Letters passing through General Post Office.		Newspapers passing through General Post Office.		Total.		Income.			Expenditure.		
		Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Newspapers						
								£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1844	11	26,941	9,384	50,389	10,626	36,325	61,015	752	10	8	751	17	6
1845	13	31,277	11,052	59,411	12,981	42,329	72,392	946	4	10	706	2	10
1846	17	39,233	14,136	73,012	22,137	53,369	95,149	1106	18	4	915	3	11
1847	25	48,312	31,638	86,233	37,679	79,950	123,912	1504	9	1	1269	15	1

NOTE.—About one-third of the Newspapers under the head of "Inland" were received by sea, and are consequently entered twice.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 14.

RETURN of the Number of Patients treated in the Government Hospital during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Admitted on payment of Fees.	Admitted without Fees.	Discharged.	Died.
1844	4	34	30	8
1845	15	50	53	12
1846	13	64	61	16
1847	30	109	120	15

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 15.

RETURN of the Number of Publicans' Licences granted in South Australia from 1844 to 1847, inclusive.

Years.	Publicans' General Licences.		Wine and Beer Licences.		Storekeepers' Licences.		Total Amounts.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
		£.		£.		£.	£.
1844	63	1575	7	84	5	25	1684
1845	73	1825	12	144	5	25	1994
1846	106	2650	13	156	6	30	2836
1847	135	3375	6	72	9	45	3492

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 16.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Public Houses in the Province of South Australia, in the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Locality.	Number in the Years			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Adelaide	34	41	54	61
Port Adelaide and Albert Town .	3	4	4	5
Country, including Port Lincoln .	33	40	60	66
Totals	70	85	118	132

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 17.

RETURN of Mines in the Province at the close of the Year 1847.

Name of Mine or Locality.	Description.	Distance in a direct line from Adelaide in Miles.	Bearings from Adelaide.
Second Creek, District A.[a]	Copper.	4½	N. 105° E.
Montacute[a]	,,	10	N. 67° E.
Adelaide Company's[a]	,,	11	N. 65° E.
Ditto	,,	46	N. 16° E.
Kanmantoo Creek, Torrens R.	,,	12	N. 62° E.
Sections 570 and 571, District B.[a]	,,	12	S. 21° W.
Horse Shoe, Onkaparinga	,,	17	S. 10° W.
Section 361, District C.	,,	20	S. 12° W.
Sections 1504 and 1024, Little Para[a b]	,,	22	N. 28° E.
Kanmantoo, Mount Barker[a]	,,	25	E. 20° S.
Paringa[a]	,,	25	E. 20° S.
Greenock Creek[a b]	,,	34	N. 25° E.
Australian Company[a]	,,	35	N. 75° E.
Ditto[a]	,,	45	N. 18° E.
Flaxman's Valley	,,	38	N. 39° E.
Poonawurta[b]	,,	40	N. 45° E.
Kapunda[a]	,,	44	N. 18° E.
Grand Junction	,,	45	N. 18° E.
North Kapunda[a b]	,,	45	N. 18° E.
Royal Mining Company[a b]	,,	45	N. 18° E.
Yorke's Peninsula[b]	,,	55	N.W. by W.
Wakefield	,,	69	N.
Dutton's[b]	,,	81	N. 11° E.
Princess Royal[a]	,,	83	N. 10° E.
Burra Burra[a]	,,	86	N. 8° E.
Bon Accord[a b]	,,	88	N. 6° E.
Mount Remarkable[b]	,,	150	N. 16° W.
Victoria Company	Copper and Gold.	10	N. 16° E.
Section 5536, Torrens River[b]	Copper and Lead.	10	N. 50° E.
Rapid Bay	,,	67	S. 23° W.
Glen Osmond[a]	Lead.	3¼	E. 28° S.

[a] These mines are now in active working.
[b] A royalty of $\frac{1}{15}$ is reserved on these mines.

Compiled from authentic official records.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848. A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

No. 18.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Manufactories and Works in the Province of South Australia, for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Description of Work.	Number in			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Barilla manufactory	1	1	1	1
Boat-builder	..	..	1	1
Boiling-down establishments	..	..	..	2
Breweries	9	18	13	15
Candle-maker	..	..	..	1
Cloth and woollen manufactory	..	..	1	1
Coach manufactories	2	3	4	4
Flour mills—Steam	3	11	15	15
Wind	7	8	8	8
Water	2	3	1	2
Cattle	4	2	2	..
Foundries—brass and iron	3	4	2	2
Machine manufactories	4	5	5	4
Maltsters	..	10	2	2
Organ-builder	..	..	1	1
Pottery	1	1	..	..
Salt-manufactory	1	1	1	1
Ship-builders	..	..	1	2
Snuff and tobacco manufactories	1	3	1	1
Soap and candle manufactories	4	4	4	3
Soap-makers	..	..	..	2
Starch-manufactory	1	..	..	..
Tanneries	7	8	6	7
Water-works	1	1	1	1

C. onial Secretary's Office, April, 1848. A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 19.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Quantity of Land under Cultivation in the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Crops.	Acres under Cultivation.			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Wheat . . .	18,980	18,838	26,134¾	25,920
Barley . . .	4,264¼	4,342½	3,489½	5,840
Oats . . .	1,045	1,485¾	1,963½	2,946½
Maize . . .	241½	86¼	106	161½
Potatoes . . .	397¼	459	590¾	381
Garden . . .	761	631	896¼	993¼
Vineyard . .	..	..	111¾	198
SELF-SOWN				
Wheat . . .	888½	249	None returned.	
Barley . . .	170	56		
Oats	160	71		
Totals . .	26,907½	26,218½	33,292½	36,440¼
No. of Proprietors	1,357	1,269	1,714	1,837

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 20.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Stock Assessed for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Horses above the Age of Six Months.	Horned Cattle above the Age of Six Months.	Sheep, including Weaned Lambs.
1844	902	22,711	355,689
1845	1,044	26,146	480,669
1846	1,826	56,986	681,374
1847	1,705	56,375	784,811

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 21.

AVERAGE PRICE of Farm Produce at Adelaide during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Butter.	Cheese.
	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Bushel.	Per Ton.	Per Ton.	Per Pound.	Per Pound.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	£. *s.*	£. *s.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1844	3 0	3 0	3 4	5 0	2 8	0 10	0 7½
1845	3 0	3 0	3 4	5 0	2 10	1 0	0 7
1846	4 9	3 9	4 0	4 0	3 0	1 1	0 9
1847	4 0	3 9	4 0	4*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.*	3 0	1 3	0 9

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 22.

RETURN of Prices paid for Bread and Fresh Meat by the Commissariat at Adelaide, for the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Bread.	Fresh Meat.
1844	1*d.* per lb.	1¾*d.* per lb.
1845	1 3/16*d.* and 1 5/16*d.* per lb.	1½*d.* and 2 3/16*d.* per lb.
1846	1½*d.* and 1 1/16*d* per lb.	2¼*d.* per lb.
1847	1¼*d.* per lb.	2¼*d.* per lb.

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 23.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Number of Offenders Convicted in the Supreme Court of Criminal Jurisdiction in South Australia in the Years ended the 30th September, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847.

FELONIES.	1844	1845	1846	1847
Offences against the person.				
Murder	..	2	..	1
Stabbing, cutting, or shooting with intent to do some bodily harm	1	..	..	1
Highway robbery	1	..	5	..
Rape	..	1	1	..
Offences against property.				
Burglary	..	..	2	3
Stealing in dwelling-house	..	1	..	3
Burglariously breaking and entering ditto and stealing therefrom	..	..	1	..
Breaking and entering dwelling-house and stealing therefrom	..	..	2	..
Sheep stealing	1	..	..	2
Horse stealing	..	1	..	1
Cattle stealing	1	..	..	..
Receiving stolen goods	2	..	..	..
Larceny	11	7	16	15
Larceny by servant	..	..	..	1
Larceny and former conviction	..	1	..	..
Larceny of promissory note, &c.	..	..	1	2
Obtaining goods, &c., under false pretences	..	..	1	..
Stealing from the person	..	..	1	..
Miscellaneous.				
Forgery	..	..	1	..
Uttering forged notes, orders, &c., with intent to defraud	..	1	2	..
Making and counterfeiting coin	..	7	..	..
Accessory	..	..	1	..
Total Felonies	17	21	34	29
MISDEMEANORS.				
Concealing birth of child	..	1	..	..
Assault with intent to commit rape	..	..	1	..
Ditto ditto burglary	..	..	1	..
Fraud	1	..	..	..
Assault	3	..	4	2
Total Misdemeanors	4	1	6	2
Total convictions	21	22	40	31

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 24.

RETURN of the Number of Cases heard and determined in the Magistrates' Courts, Adelaide, during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Description of Cases.	During the Years			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Preliminary Investigations.				
Criminal cases sent to Supreme Court	44	52	61	63
Criminal cases dismissed	48	55	70	65
Summary Jurisdiction.				
Informations under Acts of Council	72	76	61	102
Criminal trials, assaults, misdemeanors, &c.	85	96	184	127
Drunkenness	242	411	465	508
Causes on the Civil side	518	516	487	589
Totals	1009	1206	1328	1454

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 25.

RETURN of the Number of Fiats in Insolvency Issued in the Province of South Australia during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

	Number in the Years			
	1844	1845	1846	1847
Issued on the Petition of Creditors . . .	2	1	..	2
,, ,, Imprisoned Debtors.	8	13	6	12
,, ,, Debtors at large. .	..	12	10	7
Totals	10	26	16	21

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 26.

COMPARATIVE RETURN showing the Number and Nature of Writs which passed through the Sheriff's Office during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Years.	Nature of Writs.							Totals.
	Capias ad satisfaciendum.	Capias.	Fieri facias.	Habere facias possessionem.	To levy Fines.	Habeas Corpus.	Attachment for Contempt.	
1844	11	10	22	..	1	1	1	46
1845	20	6	30	1	..	..	..	57
1846	14	11	24	..	2	..	3	54
1847	10	13	28	3	2	..	..	56

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 27.

RETURN of the Amount of Mortgages on Land in the Province of South Australia Registered during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Amounts lent on	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Town lands	1,155	0	0	5,434	11	0	5,089	0	0	6,203	9	0
Country lands	13,860	10	6	6,997	16	8	30,651	6	9	27,308	2	3
Town and country lands .	5,022	11	0	30	0	0	1,500	0	0	529	15	0
Totals. . . .	20,038	1	6	12,462	7	8	37,240	6	9	34,041	6	3

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April 1848.

No. 28.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Liabilities secured by Bills of Sale, Judgments, and Warrants of Attorney, Registered during the Years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.

Securities.	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Bills of Sale	16,395	9	4	12,983	16	0	49,659	9	11	22,229	18	5
Judgments	532	6	0	994	8	0	10,478	19	0	20,412	0	0
Warrants of Attorney . .	5,206	0	0	9,783	15	11	10,741	2	0	939	19	0
Totals. . . .	22,133	15	4	23,761	19	11	70,879	10	11	43,581	17	5

Compiled from authentic official records.

A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848.

No. 29.

RETURN showing the General Condition of South Australia at the close of each Year from 1840 to 1847, inclusive, in reference to the Amount of Population at those Periods.

Years.	Total Number of Inhabitants of the Province.	Number of Inhabitants in the Municipality of Adelaide.	Number of Inhabitants in the Rural Districts.	Number of Public Houses in Adelaide, Port Adelaide, and Albert Town.	Number of Public Houses in the Country.	Number of Convictions in the course of the Year for Crimes and Misdemeanors.	Number of Flour Mills.	Number of Manufactories.	Number of Acres of Land in Cultivation.	Value of Exports of Colonial Produce.	Amount of Government Expenditure for each Year.	Amount of Revenue for each Year.
										£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1840	14,610	8,489	6,121	70	37	47	..	4	2,503	15,650 0 0	169,966 19 5	30,199 14 11
1841	..	..	..	67	38	37	..	..	6,722	31,826 0 0	104,471 12 8	26,720 15 11
1842	..	..	..	44	37	36	..	..	19,790	29,079 10 6	54,444 7 3	22,074 4 6
1843	17,366	6,107	11,259	34	33	31	16	31	28,690	66,160 17 2	29,842 16 6	24,142 15 2
1844	18,999	..	..	37	33	21	21	35	26,918¾	82,268 13 8	29,453 12 8	27,878 12 10
1845	22,390	7,413	14,977	45	40	22	24	59	26,218½	131,800 6 0	32,099 3 5	36,182 9 10
1846	25,893	..	..	58	60	40	26	44	33,292½	287,059 17 6	37,207 17 10	48,017 10 2
1847	31,153	..	..	66	66	31	25	51	36,440¼	275,115 12 0*	58,979 12 4	67,027 16 2

* See the Note appended to Return No. 5, for an explanation of the apparent falling off, during the year 1847, in the amount of value of Exports of Colonial Produce; of which the progressive annual increase is most satisfactorily and clearly exhibited in Return No. 6, which shows the value of such exports to have been 354,907*l.* 4*s.* during the year included between the 5th April, 1847, and 5th April, 1848.

Compiled from authentic official records.

Colonial Secretary's Office, April, 1848. A. M. MUNDY, Colonial Secretary.

ST. HELENA.

(No. 16.) No. 32.

ST. HELENA. No. 32.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir PATRICK ROSS, G.C. M.G., to Earl GREY.

St. Helena, May 1, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received July* 28, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for 1847, containing the usual information under the respective heads.

Finance.

Taxes and duties collected during the year, amount to the sum of 14,584*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, exclusive of 874*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, received on account of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, showing an increase of revenue of 913*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with the previous year; this increase has taken place in the customs.

Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year 1847, amounts to the sum of 21,676*l.* 18*s.* 1½*d.*, being an excess, as compared with the previous year of 483*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.* The additional expense which has been incurred in the public works, will account for this excess.

Civil Establishment.

The following changes and appointments have taken place.

Mr. Mapleton, Acting Summary Judge, has been confirmed, vice Hodson resigned.

Mr. Melliss, has been provisionally appointed country magistrate, on a salary of 100*l.* a year, the permanency of this appointment, is still under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

To secure the services of a more efficient police force, the pay of the men (nine in number), has been increased from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per diem, and a military superintendent, whose services could no longer be spared, and who in addition to his military allowance, received 2*s.* 6*d.* a-day, has been replaced by a civilian at 6*s.* a-day.

Pensions.

The amount paid under this head, is 2646*l.* 11*s.*, which, with the exception of the sum of 64*l.* 19*s.*, granted by Her Majesty's Government, has all been paid to servants of the late establishment.

The following additions have been made to the pension list, payable from the funds of the colony.

ST. HELENA.

Henry Cearly, late master plumber, at 32*l.* a-year.

The following pensions granted for loss of office under the East India Company, but not drawn hitherto, in consequence of the re-employment of the parties, have been allowed:—

Henry Doveton . .	£90
Henry Cearly . . .	64
	154

Pension granted to the orphans of Captain Pritchard, also late of the Com pany's service, and who died in 1846, 40*l.*

Parish and Population.

The population of this island is calculated to be 5500, and the expense of the parish, in connection with the poor, averages 600*l.* a year, whilst the total expense of the parish amounts to the sum of 1003*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

Schools and Societies.

There are at present four private societies, established for the benefit of the lower classes, and the Benevolent Society founded in 1814, and patronized by Government for the relief and education of the poor. Two schools in town, and three in the country are maintained by this society, at which 285 children are at present educated (being 34 more than during the year 1846), at an annual expense of 121*l.* 10*s.* These schools are open to all classes, and unlimited as to number.

Government schools, for which an annual sum of 500*l.* is allowed, and which likewise are open to all classes, and unlimited as to the number to be educated, has afforded instruction during the past year to 290 children (being 12 less than the last year). It is to be regretted that the parents of upwards of one-half of the children in the colony do not avail themselves of the means for instructing their children, which has been provided by Government and public charities.

* * * * *

Commissariat.

The following disbursements have been made by the Commissary:—

Ordnance department . .	£ 7,829	19	2
Ordinaries	10,343	19	3
Navy	10,191	15	4

* * * * *

Currency and Exchange.

Bills to the value of 27,734*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* have been drawn by the Commissary. The loss for discount on these bills amount to 483*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

The necessity of regular remittances to this colony in specie was pointed out in my Despatch, which accompanied the Blue Book for 1846.

During the last few months, consignments of specie from England and the Cape of Good Hope has rendered the Commissariat chest, for the present, independent of the merchants. It is asserted by the merchants, that, if the Commissary were authorized at all times to issue such bills as he might require at par, he could command a sufficient supply of money, independent of any remittances from England.

Mortality.

Deaths. . . 66
Births . . . 171

During the year 99 deaths have occurred; of this number only 66 were inhabitants.

The number of cases treated in the civil hospital were 235,—25 of whom died.

Trade.

During the year 1847, 1023 vessels have touched here, being 30 more than the previous year, and the traffic carried on with the shipping appears to flourish. Of the above number, 653 were English merchant vessels.

Liberated Africans.

The gross expenditure under this head, during the past year, has been 3267*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, of which 1481*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* was paid in Treasury bills.

Nine hundred and thirty-two Africans have arrived in the colony during the year 1847.

Agriculture.

The quantity of land under cultivation remains the same as previous years, viz., 155 acres; pasturage 7500 acres, much of which is capable of cultivation. There are, likewise, 25,400 acres suitable for the grazing of sheep and goats.

Gaols and Prisons.

A large number of the prisoners in this colony are soldiers. A prison for this class, to contain eight, is in progress of construction on Ladder-hill, by order of the Secretary-at-War; consequently, although the present gaol is in all respects unfit for the purpose to which it is applied, as stated in my Despatch No. 41, dated 8th October, 1847, still a prison on so extensive a scale as that submitted by the Commanding Engineer in that Despatch, will be doubtless inexpedient; and it is desirable that the attention of the local Government and the Commanding Officer of Engineers should be again given to this subject, before any steps be taken for commencing a prison according to the heavy estimate which has accompanied my Despatch to England, but to which no reply has been yet received.

The total number of prisoners committed during the past year are 288.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) PATRICK ROSS.

MAURITIUS.

(No. 102.) No. 33.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. GOMM, K.C.B., to Earl GREY.

Mauritius, April 10, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received July* 3, 1848.)

MY general Reports in connexion with the transmission of the "Blue Book" for the two last years, have entered so freely and circumstantially, particularly the more recent one, into all the concerns of the colony, and I have endeavoured to render my Despatches, transmitted to your Lordship in the course of the last twelve months, so ample in all the detail of all the vicissitudes which have affected the colony so seriously within the period, that I shall be but recapitulating the matter of reports previously made on points of primary importance while penning this Despatch.

1. The financial statements of this year will be found favourable to the colony, as compared even with those of the last; the greatly increased excess of revenue over expenditure arising principally from the productiveness of the taxes specially applied to defraying the cost of immigration.

The diminution under the head of "Exports" is accounted for chiefly by the delay in the shipment of the crops of the year.

The growing contributions on the part of the lower classes to the support of the Government schools, instanced in the proceeds of the year included under the head of "Incidental Receipts," is subject of gratification, and fraught with promise for the future, as preparing the way for the extension of these establishments, so desirable on every account.

The increased expenditure of the year is accounted for by the great additional impulse given to the repair of the public roads, and the prosecution of public works of magnitude, both urgently needed.

2. It is in the judicial department that the changes of greatest importance to the colony have taken place in the course of the year; and chief of these, the bringing into effect at the period prescribed by the Order in Council of 13th September, 1845, the use of the English language in the oral proceedings of the superior courts.

The opposition offered to the measure at the outset, and obstacles subsequently thrown in the way of its prosecution, have been such as could not but have been anticipated, and have been successfully rebutted: confined altogether to professional irritation, and in no sense shared by the colony at large. Rules of court, called for by circumstances for better securing the ends of justice and

MAURITIUS.

the interests of clients, have been framed and carried into operation by the Judges, and the protests and remonstrances of a portion of the bar, contesting the legality of such proceeding on the part of their Honours, declared to be without foundation by your Lordship.

The projected reform in the code of Criminal Procedure, reported in my last general summary as being then before the Council, continues in the same predicament, while the occurrences of the year which has elapsed afford additional evidence of the ample need there exists for the application of such judicial reforms.

The police force, under the vigilant superintendence of its efficient head, has made marked advances within the year towards the state of proficiency in which it is desirable to maintain it.

3. The too confident reliance upon remote contingencies which would seem to have had a principal share in bringing such extensive calamity upon the chief portion of the London companies of commerce connected with Mauritius, has not been without its influence upon the proceedings of their correspondents in the colony, and much indiscretion and improvidence has been laid open by the scrutiny to which the concerns of the several local houses that have been reduced to extremity by the unhappy occurrences taking place in London have been of necessity subjected.

Adequately to counteract all the calamitous consequences of so sudden and universal a shock to the principal colonial interests is beyond the power of any government; but your Lordship will, I trust, ere this, have been convinced that the local government has not been slow in the appliance of its most extreme means for this end.

For Sir W. Gomm's Despatch, Jan. 15, 1848, *vide* Papers relative to the West Indies and Mauritius, ordered by the House of Commons to be Printed, June 9, 1848, No. 399, page 210. Ditto ditto, House of Lords, Aug. 4, 1848, No. 250, page 1141.

As already stated in my Despatch of 15th January, announcing the proposed measures for reduction of existing imposts in various branches of revenue, the emergency has not found the colony hampered with an impoverished treasury, through a too facile yielding to importunate demands for lavish introductions from India, nor with the necessity of hastily restoring to their homes the consequent superabundance of labourers suddenly thrown out of employ.

By the increased productiveness, through improved arrangement for collection of the immigration taxes, and the increasing confidence in your Lordship's ultimate confirmation of these measures, in the face of numerous remonstrances from interested parties in the colony, and by a large deficit in the amount of introduction, provided for, however, in the estimates of the last two years, the result partly of easy circumstances of the Indians of the upper provinces in their homes, and partly of failure of tonnage for their conveyance hither, and by the relinquishment on the part of the agricultural interests of all demand of introduction for the present year beyond the regulated number of 6000 men, the Government has found itself in a position to accord relief to every interest in the colony, and mainly to agriculture, to the extent of 65,000*l.* of annual revenue, specified in my several Despatches forwarding the reports of proceedings in council thereupon.

Other facilities of temporary application are also about to be accorded to the interests principally aggrieved, as intimated to your Lordship in my Despatch No. 95, of the 1st instant, of a description and to an extent that the local government could hardly consider itself justified in countenancing and proceeding to carry through on showing less urgent than that afforded by the extraordinary pressure of the hour.

A relief promising to be of a still more enduring character, and still more comprehensive in its scope, is comprised in the dispositions of your Lordship for the establishment of a paper currency upon a secure and wholesome footing in the colony.

Not only in the departments of Government, but in mercantile circles of consideration, the principle of the measure is most favourably received, its provisions affording an earnest that while the aim at imprudent speculation will find no encouragement, nor insolvency a factitious support, nor lost confidence a guarantee; through their application a system of wholesome credit is established, and facilities are opened which will prove of real value in the commercial transactions of the colony.

4. The sugar crop of the year has again been an abundant one, little inferior to that of 1846, and much surpassing that of preceding periods.

The disappointment of hands to the extent solicited, considerable in each

of these years, owing to causes already exposed, has had no sensible effect prejudicial to the gathering in of the crop in either.

The growing canes of the present year promise most fairly, and are in a high state of health and strength, while the season of periodical exposure to violence of weather is fast approaching its close.

The continued favour experienced by the colony in this respect is the more signal, since, in addition to the ruder visitations of hurricane in each successive season through some years past, the neighbouring island of Bourbon has been suffering for the last two years, and so continues, from a disease extensively prevailing among the canes, as pernicious in its effects as that which has visited the potato crops of Europe so destructively.

5. The actual position of the industrial classes of the colony, native and immigrant, has been amply treated in my last General Report, and successively exposed to your Lordship in numerous reports from the Council and myself in the course of the year, and much misconception has been set at rest in various quarters with reference to their prospects and condition respectively.

To this end the census has also worked beneficially.

6. I do not find occasion to add any notices to those furnished in my last General Report respecting the easy classes of society, and the relations in which they stand towards each other.

Some indiscreet attempts have been recently made to force an appearance of amalgamation, in the shape of general meetings, for purposes vaguely defined, the proceedings at which have been successively reported to your Lordship; but such fitful summonses to concord have rather tended to bring into prominency the breach which I fear will long exist between these really distinct parties in the community.

7. The general health of the colony among both its native and Indian population has undergone throughout the term only the alternations common to periods not marked by any special visitation; but the murrain which produced such extensive ravage among the horned cattle through the larger portion of the year 1844, and re-appeared last year with some virulence in particular districts, has again manifested itself with increased intensity in the windward portion of the island, and swept off numerous herds.

The most stringent measures that Government can originate for arresting the evil have been promptly brought into operation; but it is on their own individual exertions that proprietors must mainly depend, and society at large must rely, for the successful working of all such administrative regulations.

8. Our trading relations with Madagascar continue suspended; but a reasonable hope is entertained that this serious inconvenience to the colony is approaching its term, while the barbarous people themselves will be essentially benefited, through the overtures which will shortly be made to them on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

In a social and religious point of view the position of the dominant tribe in that vast island at this day is most interesting, as I have endeavoured to make apparent to your Lordship in several recent Despatches, principally in No. 242, of 28th October.

9. The wants of the Church of England in the colony were reported upon in detail to your Lordship in my last General Report, and these must of necessity go on increasing in number and in degree until Her Majesty's Government shall see fit to provide the remedy.

The Church of the Establishment in Mauritius is still waiting to be included under some one Anglican see, and her ministry to be regulated under some one spiritual head.

A third place of public worship will be presently open in the colony for the celebration of her rites; but we have not a consecrated edifice, nor a confirmed native communicant in the island.

The absence, therefore, of episcopal jurisdiction is our prime need, and some increase to the ministry of our Church is indispensable to the due observance of her prescribed ordinances and pastoral superintendence.

My latest Despatch, bearing upon this subject, is No. 31, of 12th February.

* * * * *

CEYLON.

No. 34. (No. 120.) No. 34.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount TORRINGTON to Earl GREY.

Queen's House, Colombo,
July 4, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received August* 28, 1848.)

THE occasion of sending home the annual statistical returns of the island for the past year affords me the opportunity of conveying to your Lordship my general impression of the progress of the colony during that period; and this, from circumstances which I shall presently allude to, has been less satisfactory than I could have wished, though not less so than might have been anticipated from the disturbing causes which have affected the commerce of Ceylon in common with other portions of Her Majesty's dominions.

Sir J. Emerson Tennent, in the Despatch which accompanied the BlueBook for 1846, impressed upon your Lordship the fact that the attempt in progress for the last few years to establish the cultivation of coffee and sugar in Ceylon was still but an imperfect and untested experiment; much uncertainty hanging over the questions of labour and carriage, and the quantity and quality of the produce, and still greater mystery attaching to the unascertained influences of climate, temperature, aspect, and soil, as well as to the peculiar treatment of the coffee tree in peculiar localities, and the probable duration of its productiveness in all.

On many, indeed most of these points, speculation is still unsatisfied; the only well ascertained fact is, the almost universal failure of estates in the lower range of hills; and the discovery of this followed by the abandonment of numerous plantations, or of such portions of them as have proved unremunerative; and coupled with the depressed value of colonial produce in the home market, has had the effect of checking enterprise, and restricting the extension of cultivation generally throughout the island.

Simultaneously with this the vicissitudes of credit and the convulsions affecting capital and commerce universally have seriously prejudiced the mercantile interests of Ceylon during the past year; though the effect has been less apparent on the income and revenue of 1847 than it is likely to be on that of 1848, now in process of realization.

The present depression is, however, ascribable to temporary causes; and I have reasonable grounds for believing that the permanent capabilities of Ceylon as a producing Colony, and its facilities for trade are such as will continue to present a remunerative field for prudent investment and sedulous industry, though they may prove incommensurate with the calculations of ardent speculators, or disappoint the hopes of inexperienced adventurers.

Statistical returns. Just complaint has been made of the carelessness and inaccuracy of the statistical returns heretofore prepared for the Blue Book of this colony; and though I cannot pronounce those now sent to be in all respects complete, they exhibit evidences of increased attention and improvement. In a former Despatch,* I communicated to your Lordship the measures I have taken for enforcing attention to this subject by the civil service, and I enclosed the copy of a minute which I had caused to be published with that view. The effect, although only a short time has elapsed, has not disappointed my expectations; several valuable reports have been sent to me, and I have little doubt of securing at an early period systematic and connected information on all matters affecting the interests of the colony and indicative of its progress.

SECTION I.

1. POPULATION.

The returns of population are still, as your Lordship will perceive, imperfect and incorrect: but this I cannot hope to remedy till I shall have been

* No. 178, Dec. 15, 1847.

enabled to procure a census compiled with proper care and system. An early opportunity will be presented for carrying this design into effect, when the time shall have arrived for requiring the annual returns of individuals liable to be called on for labour or a money commutation in lieu of it, under the provisions of the ordinance recently sent home for your Lordship's sanction "For making provision for the formation and improvement of the means of communication in this island."* I am now taking steps to call for returns of the whole population simultaneously with those required for the purposes of this ordinance, as they can be prepared at the same time by the same parties and almost for the same expense.

2. Sanatory Condition.

The sanatory condition of the island during the past year has been much more satisfactory than that of 1846, when fever, dysentery, and Asiatic cholera, were more than usually prevalent, especially the latter, which carried off more than 4000 individuals with alarming rapidity. Amongst the secondary causes to which this amendment may, under Providence, be ascribed, is the return to the ordinary course of the rains and monsoons in 1847, the periods for the arrival of which had been unusually irregular during the three preceding years, a circumstance which seriously affected not only the health of this island, but the quality and value of the crops. In the present instance the rains arrived at the expected period, and, if anything, in greater abundance; a circumstance which is always coincident with the improved health of the colony. A few cases of cholera were reported in the early part of the year amongst the military at Kandy and Colombo, and the natives at Nuwera Ellia; but they speedily disappeared and have not since returned in any part of the island.

Ophthalmia during the dry season was frequent in the low country, occasioned no doubt by the hot winds and the fine sand borne by them, as well as the direct and reflected rays of the sun. But for this painful complaint the natives have a remedy, by applying alum and some vegetable astringent round the edge of the eye, outside, which has been found with them more successful than the ordinary European treatment.

The total number of native patients, including casualties, received into the hospitals throughout the island in 1847 was 5317, of whom 901 died, and 364 were remaining on the 1st January, 1848.

Asiatic Cholera.

The total number of cases of cholera, native and European, were 330, and the deaths 163.

Small Pox.

Small-pox is still almost a domesticated disease, no part of the island being at any time entirely free from its visitations. In 1847, the number of cases treated was 818, and of these 693 were discharged cured.

Vaccination.

The progress of vaccination has been satisfactory. The numbers reported to your Lordship for 1846 were:—

Vaccinated.	Discharged.	Failed.	Absent.
59,403	43,164	7,523	8,716

Those for 1847 exceed these returns under each head:—

Vaccinated.	Discharged.	Failed	Absent.
65,500	46,970	7,908	10,622

3. Religion.

The ecclesiastical returns now forwarded exhibit the usual information as to the ministers, chapels, and congregation of the various Christian denominations throughout the island. The vast preponderance of Roman Catholics will attract your Lordship's attention; a circumstance which is ascribable to the singular exertions made by the Portuguese when in possession of the maritime districts of the island to convert the people to Christianity; exertions which

* No. 8 of 1846.

CEYLON.

have never been made on the same scale or with the same anxiety for nominal proselytism by their successors in the sovereignty of Ceylon.

Christians only nominally.

At the same time, it is my duty to point out to your Lordship the fact that, although the labours of Christian ministers from the times of the Portuguese to the present have greatly shaken the confidence of the natives in their own superstition, they have never yet been able to induce the people to adopt Christianity in its stead with that firm and abiding confidence which constitutes the reality of conversion. Multitudes call themselves Christians in public, and attend to all the outward observances of our worship; but in secret they are still more closely attached to the doctrines of the Buddhists and the Hindoo mythology; and on every emergency, but more especially at the approach of death, it is but too frequently their custom to turn doubtingly from the sacraments of their nominal church, and to repose their last confidence in the ceremonies of Devil worshippers and the priests of Brahma and Buddhu.

Confidence in the truth might, under the Divine guidance, be inspired in the minds of the natives by the efforts of the ministers of religion, acting, if not in concert, at least without open antagonism to each other; uniting to make known the great essentials of Christianity on which all are agreed, and contented, in the first instance at least, to be silent as to those minor forms and constructions on which sectarians must necessarily differ. Such is the course followed by the American missionaries, who have occupied the northern parts of Ceylon since the year 1818; but their success has been neutralized to a great degree by the absence of a similar policy amongst the other clergy labouring throughout the island; and, generally speaking, throughout the whole extent of Ceylon, perplexity has been engendered in the minds of inquiring natives by the open rivalry of contending sects, till, unable to penetrate the subtleties which form the basis of these jealous distinctions, they find it safer to cling to an ancient superstition, in which the concurrence of multitudes gives them confidence, rather than exchange it for a form of Christianity which, however devotedly adopted by one church, is certain to be surrounded by doubts, if not denounced as damnable and idolatrous, by some other. The vast majority of the natives adhere openly to their own forms of superstition, whilst those who, through timidity or interest, or even from a higher impulse, make a formal profession of Christianity, still cling in private to their national idolatries, reluctant to trust themselves unhesitatingly to one form of belief, concerning the efficacy of which the professors of all others disagree.

Church of England.

As regards the progress of the Church of England during the past year, a large church was consecrated at Colombo on New Year's day, built conjointly by public subscription and a grant from the Treasury, under the ordinance No. 1 of 1845. The foundation of another was laid at Nuwera Ellia, on Easter day, by the bishop, but the building has been suspended for the present. When completed, it will be served by a colonial chaplain, for whom your Lordship has sanctioned an annual salary of 150*l.* under certain conditions.

Churches built.

Chapels have also been built and licensed at Gatambe within the district of the Kandyan Church Mission, and at Yakbedde within that of Cotta near Colombo; both erected by funds supplied by the Church Missionary Society in England, assisted by private contributions within the colony.

A temporary church has likewise been erected by private subscription, and licensed by the bishop at Kotmalie, and another at Rambodde, both in the central province; others are in contemplation, and will, it is to be hoped, be completed when the present financial crisis shall have passed over.

These and the arrival and departure of several of the colonial chaplains and missionaries form the principal events connected with the religious ministrations of the Church of England during the year. In their educational labours, the clergy have been equally zealous and indefatigable. Besides a large number of boys' schools long since established and supported by them, five girls' schools have recently been added to those in connexion with the Cotta mission, and not less than 21 new schools have been formed by the Church School Society, unaided by any support from the School Commission.

Missions.

The Rev. Mr. Thurston has been appointed by the bishop to the superintendence of a new mission station formed in the Cina Corle, north of Colombo, and extending over an area of 20 square miles, with a dense population. Eight schools have been opened within this district, and Divine service is

performed in 12 places alternately by the missionary and his assistant catechists. The native headmen have shown the best disposition towards this mission, and offered grants of land and contributions in materials and labour for the erection of four small churches four miles apart; a strong evidence of the success of the mission and extended sense of the value and truth of Christianity.

In the Jaffna district two new missionary stations have been opened at Copay and Navil Cooly, another at Madampe, and a fourth is projected at Mulletivoe, on the north-east coast of the island.

Church of Scotland.

As regards the *Church of Scotland*, the colonial chaplain at Kandy still officiates in the great Hall of Audience attached to the palace of the former kings; the church, for which subscriptions were raised in 1844-5, not having yet been erected, owing chiefly to financial difficulties, which it is trusted will shortly be overcome.

Joint use of Churches by Episcopalians and Presbyterians.

In the course of the year the full Presbyterian worship has been restored to the church of Galle by the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Clarke as colonial chaplain. Mr. Clarke is a licentiate of the Synod of Ulster, appointed in 1846 by the Secretary of State; and the building in which he officiates is the ancient Dutch church which is still the property of the Presbyterian Consistory, who continue, as heretofore, to lend it for the accommodation of the chaplain of the Church of England; an arrangement, the general adoption of which I cannot too strongly recommend as not only conducive to public accommodation, but as eminently calculated to encourage that feeling of brotherly kindness which it is so essential to promote and preserve in a community such as that of Ceylon.

Wesleyan Methodists.

The *Wesleyan Methodists* to whom we make an annual grant for the purposes of education and religious instruction have divided the island into two districts; one to the north which is inhabited by Malabars and Moormen, speaking Tamul; and the other embracing the south of the island where the population and language are Singhalese. In the north, the Rev. Mr. Percival has under his superintendence upwards of 40 schools, including boarding schools for both males and females, and furnishing a course of education which embraces ancient and modern history, algebra, geometry, natural philosophy, and the elements of mental and moral science. Next to that of the American missionaries, (whose establishment will be treated of under the head of education,) the success of the pupils at schools under the Methodist mission is greater than that of any other religious body in the colony.

In the southern district, under the Rev. Mr. Gogerly, education and religious instruction keep equal pace, there being but few villages where preaching is established, that have not likewise a village school, where education is given either in English or the vernacular tongue; and where the funds are too limited to admit of the use of paper and pens; the children are taught to write their language in the fashion of their country, with an iron style on a stripe of the Talipot leaf. In the southern district the Wesleyan Methodists have 86 schools containing 2963 boys and 675 girls.

Baptists.

The Baptists are another important body, extensively and most beneficially employed in the work of religious and intellectual teaching. They expend annually about 2000*l.*, contributed exclusively by voluntary subscribers; from which sum they maintain 3 European and 20 native missionaries, and educate 1531 pupils in 50 schools, distributed throughout the districts of Matura, Colombo, and Kandy. They have likewise a printing establishment at Kandy, from which they have issued 8300 school-books and 40,000 instructive tracts.

Education the best preparation for conversion to Christianity.

I have alluded to the labours of the missionaries conjointly in the school-room and the pulpit, not only because the excellent men who discharge these important duties are the most valuable promoters of education in the colony, but because experience has taught every Church whose clergy officiate amongst the natives of Ceylon, that preaching makes but a transient impression, if any, unless the way has been first prepared by the process of mental cultivation; and that sincere conversions from heathenism to Christianity are only to be looked after intellectual teaching shall have prepared the minds of the Cingalese for the reception of spiritual enlightenment.

CEYLON.

4. Education.

The American mission.

The policy of rendering education auxiliary to the introduction of pure Christianity, unalloyed by sectarian jealousies, has in no instance been so gracefully illustrated as in the establishment of the American mission, whose ministers and officers have taken up an important position in the northern part of the island, and have been extensively employed in the work of instruction for upwards of 30 years. A company of these good men landed in Ceylon in the year 1815, and almost immediately selected Jaffna and its vicinity as the scene of their future labours, and its Tamul population as the object of their care. Of this first party, one, the Rev. Mr. Poor, returned to the United States in the present year; and another, the Rev. Mr. Meigs, is still here, and earnestly engaged, after having already spent 33 years in the work of education in the colony. With him, 11 other American gentlemen, lay and clerical, including a physician, are associated as teachers, or for conducting the printing department, and the publication of religious and educational works; and the

Freedom from sectarianism.

constitution of their community is so free from a sectarian taint, that it includes clergy of different denominations, living under the same roof, using the same pulpit, and engaged in the same pursuits; and all, as a body, have shown the utmost anxiety to co-operate with the missionaries of the Church of England and the Methodists in the promotion of the same object, the diffusion of intellectual and religious instruction, and the expounding of the great principles of simple Christianity. "The object of their mission," as stated in one of their recent Reports, "is not to disseminate the peculiar doctrines of any "party; and their missionaries are selected indiscriminately from the Congre- "gational and Presbyterian Churches, and sent out to preach repentance of sin "and justification by faith in Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation; and it "is believed," they modestly add, "that the missionaries in Ceylon have not "departed from this rule."*

Twenty-three natives, who have been trained as their assistants, are now employed under their superintendence; a few in preaching and religious instruction, but the majority in the conducting of schools and the distribution of the Scriptures and religious tracts in the native language.

Numbers educated by them.

Since their arrival in Ceylon these men have spent upwards of 100,000*l.*, collected by voluntary subscriptions in the United States; and they have trained in their schools 93,000 children, male and female, who have received instruction for a longer or a shorter time, or averaging the period of their pupilage at four years, nearly 25,000 individuals have thus received a competent education, for which they are indebted to these strangers.

Boarding-schools.

In addition to numerous day schools for tuition, both in English and Tamul, the American mission has established extensive boarding schools for boys and girls, where the pupils are taken entirely under their charge, residing under their roof, and receiving an admirable moral and domestic training in addition

Influence of female education.

to scholastic instruction. The effects of this system upon the people generally, and, above all, the influence and example of the females who have received their education in these most interesting establishments, are now producing highly beneficial results in the aspect of the community generally, and working by degrees a decided change for the better in the domestic habits of the people.

Tamul college.

A Tamul college has likewise been established at Batticotta, to which the most successful pupils in the elementary schools are admitted as students and residents, and instructed in the higher branches of literature, science, and religion. Since its opening in 1823, 570 students have been admitted to this excellent seminary, and from it the majority of the native officers employed by Government in the public departments of the northern province have been supplied.

Printing establishment.

Acting in concert with these extended operations, the printing establishment of the mission has been most actively occupied since the year 1833, and now gives constant employment to 82 workmen, chiefly educated in the mission schools and afterwards put in possession of a remunerative craft. From this press upwards of 50,000 volumes a-year are now issuing, chiefly educational and elementary, and down to the close of 1846, there had been printed at this single establishment 470,580 volumes, containing upwards of 134 millions of pages filled with sound and valuable information.

* Report, 1847, p. 7.

For a time the Government Commission of Education undertook the introduction of schools under its own management in the Jaffna Province; but witnessing the eminent success which attended the labours of the various missionaries there, and the spirit of Christian co-operation and mutual confidence in which they managed the educational affairs of the province by a joint Board at which the members of each mission has a seat; and satisfied that under such a system the funds for this purpose would be managed not only with greater economy but with greater advantage than in their own hands, the grants of the Legislative Council have since been confided, in proportion to their means of superintending them, to the Americans, the Methodists, and the Church of England missions at Jaffna, an arrangement, the result of which has been in the highest degree satisfactory.

Central school commission.

As regards the operations of the Central School Commission, and its establishments in the other district of Ceylon, the result of the last year has proved interesting in an educational point of view in this respect, that it has clearly appeared in the course of it that English education has now been extended as far as there is a legitimate demand for it, thus leaving the Government free while it merely provides for the efficiency of the present English educational establishments to direct its efforts towards the extension of education in the vernacular language of the natives. In 1841, when the present School Commission was organized, there were found to be about 2,200 pupils in the Government schools, educated at an annual cost of 3,125*l*. There are now upwards of 6,000 pupils, educated at a cost of about 10,000*l*. Beyond this it does not appear possible to carry English education at present with a reasonable degree of economy, and the present scale of expenditure is so disproportionate to the results, that I am maturing arrangements for the introduction of a more economical, and I trust more advantageous system for the future extension of secular education.

Vernacular education.

In the mean time, and under existing circumstances, more attention has been bestowed last year than at any former period on the native Normal Institution, and thirty vernacular schools taught by Singhalese youths who have been trained in that seminary, have been opened in various parts of the island, while fresh lads from villages where schools are wanted have been appointed to succeed those who had completed their course of training and gone out as masters. The prospect of this branch of the educational service may be reported as upon the whole favourable, but great difficulties have to be encountered chiefly in consequence of the extreme aversion of the Singhalese to everything that implies the least enterprise or self-denial. The extension of vernacular education by Government is also rendered somewhat delicate in consequence of the field being to a considerable extent occupied by missionary schools, which number throughout the island no fewer than 15,000 scholars, in consequence of which a good understanding with the various missionary bodies may be considered to be indispensable to success, for it has been found as the result of experience that Government schools, though conducted at a much greater expense, cannot compete successfully with missionary schools in the same field; so much more vigilant and influential is the superintendence of the missionaries than that of such persons as Government can call to its aid in this cause at village stations.

In the course of the year, I have had occasion to regret the resignation of the Bishop of Colombo as President of the School Commission under circumstances which have been already fully communicated to your Lordship. But I am happy to add that his Lordship continues to visit the Government schools as formerly.

Publication of educational works.

Auxiliary to the work of training vernacular teachers, considerable progress has also been made during the course of the year in preparing and publishing school books in the Singhalese language. A First Spelling Book and a First Reading Book, part of the impression of the latter being diglot, the English on the same page as the Singhalese, have been published, as also large Singhalese alphabets from wood blocks cut by one of the students of the native Normal Institution. Several other works are also in progress, of which may be particularly mentioned a Singhalese and English Scoool Dictionary, a work of which the want has been hitherto very much felt, not less by Europeans who desire to acquaint themselves with the native language than by natives who desire to acquire English.

It is much to be regretted, however, that conflicting opinions exist as to what

CEYLON.

style of language and which of the dialects of Singhalese spoken by the natives ought to be adopted in printed works. The British and Foreign Bible Society are familiar with the controversy; and two versions of the sacred Scriptures are in existence, both provided by the funds of that great institution, the one by the Church of England, and the other by the Wesleyan missionaries; but though their respective presses are within six miles of each other, their respective versions are so different, and both of them apparently so unsatisfactory, that a youth who has been trained to the one cannot accommodate himself to the other, and a native, though very imperfectly acquainted with our language, finds that he understands the Bible better in English than in either.

SECTION II.

1. Agriculture.

Rice.
Native coffee.

The year 1847 has been a momentous one as regards agricultural operations. For the cultivation of rice and other grain it was peculiarly favourable, owing to the seasonableness and abundance of the rains. The crop of native coffee, too, was more than usually heavy, and the export large; but so unremunerative is the present scale of prices for this article, that in some districts it was never picked, but allowed to drop neglected from the trees, the market value at Colombo not being sufficient to justify the charges for gathering and the carriage from a distance. Native coffee, which in 1840 was sold in London at prices varying from 90*s.* to 66*s.* for the lowest qualities, has fallen gradually year by year, till in 1847 the quotations ranged from 28*s.* to 21*s.*, whilst the cost of transport has been augmented to the natives by competition with the European planter, and the increasing demand for bullock hire. I fear that this branch of native industry must, from many causes, remain much depressed for some time to come.

Coffee plantations.

Sir J. Emerson Tennent, in his Despatch of the 10th May, 1847, in transmitting the Blue Book Returns of 1846, particularized many of those incidents of soil and climate peculiar to coffee planting, which had begun in this year to create anxiety and uncertainty as to the amount of ultimate success likely to be attendant on the experiment of its introduction on a large scale into Ceylon; and he alluded at the same time to those circumstances connected with financial derangement at home, and consequent commercial embarrassment within the colony, which were beginning to cast a shade over the prospects of progress which had hitherto afforded encouragement to the planters. He expressed a hope, however, that, in consequence of the measures in progress for overcoming the difficulties of transport, by the construction of a railway, and the organization of a "Conveyance Company," coupled with the prospect of increased financial accommodation and improved prices for Ceylon produce at home, confidence would be restored, and planting operations resumed with their previous energy. This anticipation was formed at the commencement of 1847; but the close of the year did not realize the expectation then formed. The

Railroad abandoned.

project of a railroad from Colombo to the interior, which was then in contemplation, was abandoned, owing to the impossibility of procuring the capital

Conveyance Company dissolved.

in England. The Conveyance Company was commenced; but from inadequate means, and the loss of cattle to an unforeseen extent, its affairs, after a few months' trial, were wound up, and the scheme abandoned, with a serious loss to the proprietors. Capital, instead of becoming more abundant, flowed in much diminished quantity into the colony, owing to the financial revolution in England; and from the same causes the prices of coffee, instead of continuing

Present position.

to improve, as they appeared likely to do at the beginning of 1847, took an opposite direction, and sunk to an unremunerating level before the close of the year. The result has been that which naturally follows from such a combination of causes; little extension of coffee cultivation has taken place since 1845; Crown lands suitable to its growth have ceased to be in demand; and those already in the hands of speculators, and which at the close of 1845 were readily purchased at advanced prices, ranging from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* an acre, are at the present moment entirely unsaleable. Numerous estates in inferior situations have been either wholly or partially abandoned; and even those in favourite localities have changed hands at almost nominal rates, when the late

proprietors have been compelled to part with them, owing to the withdrawal or curtailment of financial accommodation.

Your Lordship will perceive that what I have here pointed to is to a great extent the result of external causes and of commercial distress in its operation on the planting interest, independently of any disappointment immediately arising out of the failure of planting operations. The wholesale commerce of Ceylon has, in fact, been a greater sufferer during the last two years than at any period of the previous ten. Native coffee and cinnamon, the principal articles in which remittances were formerly made by the merchants here to their English correspondents, have been shipped at increasing loss; and cocoanut oil, the only staple commodity which was formerly profitable as a shipment to Europe, has lately been confined to but one or two firms, representing English houses of large capital. Under these circumstances, combined with disturbing causes at home, consignments from England have been suspended or greatly curtailed, and mercantile operations of every description contracted within the narrowest limits. But the houses which have suffered most are those whose capital, in anticipation of agency and commission on the crops, had been employed in advances to the proprietors of coffee estates, by which means the funds which ought to have been at liberty for commercial operations have become fixed in plantations (many of them of no value), or converted into dead loans on mortgage. Much practical inconvenience has resulted from this hazardous practice of advances on cultivation, to which no prudence can foresee or caution apply a limit. Further advances have to be made as a matter of necessity to avert the loss of the first, till in some cases the lender becomes as embarrassed as the borrower, and instances have come to light in connexion with a considerable mercantile house recently in the "Gazette," in which the firm had been compelled before their final suspension to borrow at *twelve* per cent., assigning as security their own liens on estates which had been previously mortgaged to themselves at *seven*.

Effects of commercial embarrassment.

System of advances on estates.

The more recent precaution of making advances not on the land, but against the forthcoming crops, has not been found in practice to afford a much more effectual security. Prices fall, and the crops are liable to uncertainty and deficiency, from many unexpected calamities; the wind loosens the roots and barks the young plants; the rains, when unseasonable, prevent the possibility of saving the crop in a fit state for market; the rats injure the trees,* or the bug† the berries; the coolies are too few to meet the demand for labour, or the bandies too scarce to afford the necessary transit; and from each, or a combination of one or more of these disasters, the receipts are deficient, and the merchant who relied on them disappointed of the proceeds, but left with no other alternative than further advances to prevent absolute loss.

Its pernicious effect.

Some large estates which had been opened and supported by capital so supplied have recently been brought to the hammer, owing to the impossibility of continuing this accommodation, and two of the most considerable mercantile houses, each connected with between 30 and 40 plantations, have become bankrupts. Mortgagees in numerous instances are in possession of the properties on which they had made advances, and are now constrained, in order to avoid a sale during the prevalence of universal depression, to carry them on on their own account, at whatever present inconvenience or risk of ultimate failure.

For this state of things, so far as it is produced by external causes, relief must be looked for in the restoration of commercial confidence at home, followed by a freer influx of capital into the colony, and the return of prices for produce, if not to the standard of 1845, at least to such a scale of remuneration as will enable the planter to carry on his operations with ease and satisfaction.

But even with ample improvement in these particulars, much uncertainty will still remain for a time as to the ultimate success of planting in Ceylon, and the adaptation of its soil, its climate, and other essentials, for the profitable cultivation of coffee.

Soil.

As regards soil, much of the coffee district is formed of a metamorphic silicious rock, containing large quantities of mica, and this, when decomposed, yields little but sand or almost unproductive earth. Covering this, and mingling with its surface is a proportion of alluvium and decomposed vegetable matter,

* See *post*, p. 273.

† Ibid., p. 273.

CEYLON.

more or less plentiful, as it has been washed away from the acclivities or collected in the hollows below. Estates which have been opened on soil of this meagre description (and they are many), at whatever altitude, have more or less disappointed expectation, and the greater number have been abandoned wholly or in portions. But in other tracts, where the predominant ingredient of the rock is feldspar, there results from its decomposition a fertile soil and one highly retentive of moisture, and where this primary essential is combined with an altitude of from 3000 to 4500 feet, a sheltered aspect and exposure to the rains and sun, there is the best security against failure, so far as the ordinary course of nature is concerned.

One cause of partial disappointment, however, even in such situations, during the past year, was the untimely continuance of the periodical rains into a period when dry weather is usually relied on for saving the crop and transmitting it to the coast for shipment. But more obvious explanations of the causes of disappointment, where it has been encountered, will be found in the want of judgment and the disregard of economy with which the majority of estates were originally opened.

Want of economy in the original opening of estates.

Eight or ten years ago, when coffee planting had become a mania amongst the civil and military officers in Ceylon, and when capitalists from England and India were eagerly investing their funds in land for its cultivation, prices were so high in the London market, reaching 120*s.* for what now seldom brings 50*s.*, that every intermediate outlay was looked upon as a bagatelle compared with the prodigious profits which were speedily to be realized by the sale of the produce on such terms. The result was, a more than oriental extravagance in every item of expenditure, and a wild race of competition as to who would first have their estates in bearing, which raised the wages of labour and the cost of every article of consumption to a pitch actually absurd. Those whose official avocations prevented their giving all their time and attention to their estates, engaged as their superintendents, at excessive salaries, men who had never seen a tree planted, or a crop of coffee prepared for market. Soldiers, whose discharge was purchased from the ranks, were sent up to the interior to manage plantations on salaries of 300*l.* and 400*l.* per annum; horses for their use were purchased by the agents at excessive prices, and their style of living, wines and expenditure of every description, were on a scale of the most absurd profusion; whilst the proprietors were mortgaging every available security, and raising money at 9 and 10 per cent. to support this expenditure, buoyed up by the confident expectation that the first golden harvest would reimburse every outlay, and leave them in possession of a splendid and permanent income.

Of course there were exceptions to the prevailing practice; many gentlemen conducted their estates with prudence, and working them on their own capital; these have been brought into cultivation under proper management, and continue to be a safe investment. Others, but they were very few, took advantage of the moment, and disposed of their own speculations at prodigious profits; but the great majority, intent on the future, declined all reasonable offers, and held on their own course. Even the reduction of the protective duty in England in 1844 did not discourage expenditure; and the first check to this career was applied by the commercial reverses at home in the year 1845-6, when the supplies of capital to the colony were suddenly stopped, and merchants and agents at Colombo affected by the same cause, were constrained to contract their accommodation, or altogether suspend their advances. Expenditure was now necessarily reduced on the estates, but not till the vast majority of them had become chargeable with liabilities and mortgages bearing interest at inconvenient rates; superintendents were dismissed, and their salaries cut down to a more rational sum, and attempts were made, but too late to be effectual, to reduce the high wages of coolies and bullock drivers, who had now become indispensable to the plantations, and successfully combined to resist every effort to bring down their wages below the standard to which the insane competition amongst the planters themselves had originally raised them.

Recent depression.

In the mean time prices rapidly fell in England, and many estates, where the quantity of the produce was too scanty to pay expenses at the reduced rates, were abandoned entirely, and others, whose proprietors were too embarrassed to carry them on, were forced into the market, but owing to the general

panic and depression, such as were sold, failed to realize more than nominal prices.

This was the general aspect of affairs throughout 1847; but in the course of that year some new and unexpected discouragements from natural causes arose to disconcert the prospects of the planters. Rats appeared suddenly, and for the first time, amongst some of the highest and most productive plantations; no reasonable conjectures could satisfactorily account for their coming; but the most probable was, that the long continuance of the rains had rotted the nillo and other plants on which they were accustomed to feed, and they issued out of the jungle in prodigious numbers to attack the coffee trees, from which they gnawed off the young fruit bearing branches; but singularly enough they seemed not to be in quest of the berries, but of the pith of the plant, which contains a small proportion of farina.

Rats.

Another and still more formidable visitor was "the bug," as it is called, a species of coccus; not unfrequent in the forests, and found on numerous other plants besides the coffee tree; but on it they settled in formidable numbers, covering every stem and twig with their scales, extending over large areas of estates, and in some cases pervading the entire plantation. The effects are most serious. The bug insinuates itself amongst the buds and young stems which attach the fruit in clusters to the branch, and inserting its proboscis extracts the juice, so attenuating the tree and corrupting its sap, that its leaves become covered with a small black fungus or *antennaria*, and its berries first wither and decline, and then fall discoloured and decayed to the ground. In this manner breadths of plantations, which have yielded from 10 to 16 cwt. an acre, have failed in the succeeding year to yield a single pound of sound coffee, and whole estates have had the crop reduced to one-third or even less.

The coffee bug.

This calamity, I regret to say, is extending; and so seriously do I regard it, that I have directed Dr. Gardener, the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden at Peradenia, to make a visit to the coffee districts, in order to examine the estates which are infested by the bug, and furnish to me a report on its history and habits; together with his opinion as to the means of remedying its injuries, and checking its extension.

But apart from these casualties, and temporary or partial discouragements, the future and its promise must be a matter of much solicitude to those interested in this important branch of our colonial industry. Whatever improvement may take place in the present depressed prices of coffee at home, its producers must be prepared to accommodate themselves to the obvious tendency downwards, which has of late years affected the value of every article of consumption, and is likely to prevail for an indefinite time to come. To unfavourably-circumstanced estates, defective either in quantity of produce or quality of the crop this seems to be impossible; and the probabilities are, that the process of abandonment must proceed, and at least one-third of the inferior plantations will be thrown out of cultivation. The rapid increase of production is itself hastening this event. The probable consumption of Great Britain has been estimated at above 37 millions of pounds; and your Lordship will perceive by the returns now sent, that close upon 33 millions were this year exported from Ceylon. So soon, therefore, as the demand in England shall have been satisfied, our surplus supply must seek a market on the Continent, and necessarily fall to the level of continental prices for coffee. Protection under such circumstances must become unavailing; and even at present the prices for the native coffee of Ceylon have so nearly approached to the level of the Continent, that shipments both in the last year and the one preceding have been made to France by the way of Pondicherry, and orders have this year been received for increased quantities to be sent to the same market.

Future prospects.

At such a conjuncture, the only question to be determined is, as to the lowest possible cost at which coffee can be raised and shipped from Ceylon, and whether this will be remunerative as compared with the reduced prices at which it is likely to enter into consumption. Much uncertainty still prevails as to a satisfactory solution of this important inquiry: experience and recent improvements have shown that an important saving of expenditure may be effected in many directions; but as these, to be efficacious, must take effect from the first opening of an estate, their introduction into plantations already in bearing is impracticable, unless at a sacrifice too serious to be admissible.

Enforcement of economy.

CEYLON.

It seems equally unlikely that capital borrowed at extravagant interest of 9 and 10 per cent. to be invested in coffee, should be capable of yielding such a return as to leave a remunerative profit after discharging this first liability: such estates must eventually pass into the hands of more prudent proprietors, prepared to invest their own funds, and conduct their outlay under their own management, dispensing with the very questionable assistance of inexperienced superintendents at disproportionate salaries. Expenditure under every head is still capable of extensive reductions, and the rates of labour which are now equal to three times the actual consumption of the labourer, who hoards the difference, must necessarily be brought down to a scale more in harmony with the prevailing value of the produce which he raises. The wages of artisans and carriers which had been raised to an unreasonable height by the foolish eagerness of the planters in their competition to be first in the opening of estates; are already exhibiting a desirable decline, owing to the diminished demand for mechanics, and the inability of the planters to comply with the unreasonable charges of the bandy-drivers and owners of bullocks. Already, too, the houses of agency in Colombo are reducing their charges for the cleaning and the packing of the coffee, and with this a reduction on the commission on outlay and shipping, added to diminution of expenditure under the heads I have particularized and others; there can be no reasonable doubt that coffee may be raised in Ceylon to a satisfactory profit in situations combining the natural essentials to its production. Lands of this description, and suitable in every respect are to be had to almost any extent; of those already sold by the Government, about 60,000 acres have been planted out of 400,000, which have passed into private hands: and with respect to these it may be stated universally, that the least valuable and productive portions are those now under cultivation; the reserved portions being generally the highest and last reached, though in every particular the best suited to the plant.

Appendix No. 1.

Coffee cultivation still a safe investment.

On the whole, my Lord, after anxious enquiry into this important subject, aided by the most experienced informants to whom I could address myself, I can come to no other conclusion than that the instances of failure which it has been my duty to report are but the natural results of indiscretion or inexperience, and do not exceed the amount of disappointment which might naturally have been looked for in an experiment so new and so extensive; whilst the more satisfactory results under favourable circumstances and judicious management leave no reasonable doubt, that Ceylon possesses every essential for a successful cultivation of coffee, and that its prosecution may safely be regarded, if not as the enriching speculation which it was at one time imagined, at least as a safe and remunerative investment for men of rational expectations, and who are prepared to conduct their operations with economy and ordinary prudence.

Sugar.—I regret to be still unable to report satisfactorily of the experiment of sugar-planting. No extension has taken place during the last year, but, on the contrary, one large estate has been finally abandoned, and another suspended its cultivation for a time, but is at present putting in fresh canes and trying a new system of management with the use of manures. To a great extent, the same indiscreet expenditure which has led to the embarrassment of coffee proprietors was pursued for a time by the planters of sugar, with some exceptions. Plantations so opened have either been deserted or have changed hands, and some of those which have so passed under a new proprietary for a trifling sum are now worked on a reduced scale of outlay, and are said to be remunerative and promising. The poverty of the soil seems to be the great obstacle to success, when taken in connexion with the difficulty of procuring manure, in a country where cattle are so sparingly reared. And in some parts of the low country, where the quality of the soil is rich and fertile, the rarity and uncertainty of the rains render the cultivation hazardous.

Former extravagant management.

Soil.

Some of the planters, however, with West Indian experience, speak sanguinely of success, and pronounce the alluvial soil in parts of the southern and western provinces to be fully as suitable as that of other sugar-growing islands: and, looking to the probable influence of political events upon prices at home, hopes are still high as to the eventual result of the experiment.

Sugar from native trees.

In the interior of Ceylon the natives use sugar freely, but draw their own supplies exclusively from the two species of palm-trees which are indigenous

to Ceylon, and yield it in abundance: these are the Palmyra,* from which jaggery is largely extracted on the continent of India, and the Kittool,† which is the favourite tree for the same purposes in Ceylon. The Palmyra is chiefly grown in Jaffna and the north, the Kittool throughout the rest of the island; the latter yields a rich syrop capable of high refinement, but used by the Singhalese in the first stage of crystallization, when it is sold for something more than one penny per lb. As the trees are already numerous and capable of infinite extension, and each is susceptible of yielding 2 lbs. of sugar per diem for two months in a year, (the ordinary period during which the jaggery is drawn off,) it is clear that a valuable trade might be established in this article, which, when refined, would command a price equal to that of cane sugar; but such is the apathetic disposition of the natives, and the difficulty of urging them in any new direction different from their ancient customs, that no prospect exists at present of attempting such a measure on a large scale.

The Palmyra plant.

The Kittool.

Cocoa-nut Plantations.—Sir J. Emerson Tennent, in his Despatch with the Blue Book for 1846, called your Lordship's attention to the recent extension of cocoa-nut plantations in the maritime provinces; and subsequent observation confirms the justice of his remarks as to its great importance and the probability of its becoming, if it is not already, "one of the safest investments in Ceylon."

The utility of this remarkable tree, and the infinitude of purposes to which it is converted by the natives, have naturally attracted the attention of speculators to its cultivation even as an article of internal consumption, irrespective of any foreign demand for the coir and oil, which it yields in great abundance. No one portion of the tree is destitute of important uses,—its timber for building, its leaves for thatch, their stems for fencing, the nuts for food and light, and the coir or fibre which envelopes them in the husk is manufactured into the ropes and cordage of all others the best suited to the climate.

Singular utility of the cocoa-nut palm.

The cocoa-nut palm, of which there are five varieties in the island, though all I believe of the same species, grows freely in the low country, but only yields in perfection in the vicinity of the sea, and in situations which afford abundance of water and a light and permeable soil. At the close of the last session of the Legislative Council, Sir J. Emerson Tennent made a visit to the districts on the east and north of the island, where the most extensive plantations have recently been opened; and from a narrative of his journey, I beg to submit to your Lordship the following account of the remarkable formations which afford the most favourable soil and circumstances for the growth of this important tree, and which are common to both the eastern and western coasts of Ceylon:—

Remarkable geological formations.

"The rivers, which flow east and west on both sides of the island, are met "at their junction with the ocean by a powerful current which flows from the "north; and all their deposits, instead of being carried directly out to sea, are "heaped up in the form of immense bars and sand-banks, which gradually "extend towards the south, and force the rivers to turn in that direction in "order to find an outlet. The formation of these bars when once commenced "proceeds with great rapidity, owing to the accumulation of sand thrown up "during the monsoons, when a furious surf beats full upon the shore for many "months uninterruptedly, till at last a long stripe of land is formed which "stretches from north to south, behind which the river bends, forming a narrow "lake varying from a quarter of a mile to two or three miles broad, and some-"times extending for 20 miles along the shore between the mainland and the "new marine formation. Occasionally, the violence of the monsoon drives in "such quantities of sand and fresh deposit as to close up the ordinary em-"bouchere of these channels, and the river, swollen by its confinement, breaks "a fresh opening for itself in some other direction, and not unfrequently leaves "its ancient channel converted into an absolute lake without any opening "whatsoever.

"In process of time these sand-banks become covered with vegetable life; "herbaceous plants, shrubs, and, finally, trees peculiar to saline soils succes-"sively make their appearance; and, as these decay, their decomposition "degenerates a sufficiency of soil when mixed with the upper coating of sand "to sustain continued vegetation. The process of this conversion may be seen

* Borassus flabelliformis. † Caryita urens.

CEYLON.

" in all its stages at various points of the coast. The margin of sand nearest " to the water is first taken possession of by some saline grasses and succulent " plants, such as the glassworts,[1] which are provided with penetrating and " tenacious roots; and a breakwater, as it were, being thus secured, the drier " sand above is next seized upon by the goat's-foot convolvulus,[2] which seems " to be always the first to make its appearance. It covers the surface with its " purple flowers, and its procumbent branches shooting in all directions send " down roots from every joint that serve to give the sand its first solidity. " Along with the convolvulus grows a creeping bean with large pods,[3] a fleshy " plant called Moodoo-gaeta-kola by the natives,[4] a species of aristotochia,[5] " and a strong coarse grass called Moharawana,[6] some crotolarias,[7] and the " Sayan mal or choya,[8] which is used as a substitute for madder. All these " have creeping roots, and, striking them directly downwards, they prevent the " sand from being displaced by the wind. The bank thus protected from the " action of the air above and of the water at its base, other herbaceous plants " soon cover it in quick succession, and give the entire surface its first dense " carpet of vegetation.

" In the next stage low shrubs make their appearance, their seed being " drifted by the waves, and taking ready root when they rest. The foremost " of these are the mangroves, of which there are five or six varieties on this " coast,[9] all growing luxuriantly within the actual wash of the sea; whilst, a " little retired from the influence of the tides, the undisturbed and marshy " spots are covered with tamarisks,[10] acanthus,[11] and several varieties of " Hebiscus, and the dry sands above are taken possession of by acacias, " *salvadora Persica* (the true mustard-tree of Scripture), which here attains a " height of 40 feet, ixoras, and the numerous family of cassias.

" Lastly, after a sufficiency of earth has been formed by frequent successions " of their less important predecessors, the ground becomes covered by trees of " ampler magnitude, most of which are found upon the adjacent shore of the " main land; the Margosa,[12] from whose seed the natives express a valuable " oil; the *Timbiri*,[13] with whose glutinous nuts the fishermen bark their nets; " the cashu nut;[14] the *Palu*, one of the most valuable timber trees of the " northern province; and the wood apple,[15] whose fruit is regarded by the " Singhalese as an unfailing specific for dysentery.

" But the most important fact connected with these recently-formed portions " of land is their extraordinary suitability for the growth of the cocoa-nut, " which affects the sea air, and never succeeds at any distance from it; and " which at the same time requires a light and sandy situation, and the constant " presence of water in large quantities. All these essentials are combined in " the sea belts I have described, lying as they do between the ocean on the one " side and the fresh-water lakes formed by the great rivers on the other, and " presenting every requisite of soil and surface. It is along a sand formation " of this description, about 40 miles long, and from one to three miles broad, " that the recent thriving cocoa-nut plantations have been commenced at " Batticaloa. At Calpentyn, on the western coast, a similar formation has " been taken advantage of for the same purpose. At Jaffna the same pecu- " liarities of soil and locality have been equally seized on for this promising " cultivation; and generally along the whole sea border of Ceylon to the south " and west, the shore, for the breadth of one or two miles, exhibits one almost " continuous grove of the cocoa-nut palms."

Recent extension of cocoa-nut planting.

The recent formation of cocoa-nut estates has taken place chiefly in the northern and eastern provinces, where the population is rare and the lands unoccupied; but towards the west and south some flourishing plantations have been simultaneously opened by Europeans. In round numbers it may be said that 20,000 acres have been surveyed and sold for cocoa-nut planting at Batticaloa and Jaffna within the last five years, of which more than one-half is already planted, and the rest in progress; and on the western coast, at

[1] Salicornia Indica, and S. brachtiata.
[2] Convolvalus pes capri.
[3] Canavalia obtusifolia.
[4] Hydrophalax maritima.
[5] A. bracteata.
[6] Spinifex squarrosus.
[7] Crotolaria herniarioides.
[8] Hedyotis umbellata.
[9] These belong to the genera Rhizophora, Kandelia, and Bruguiera.
[10] Tamarix Indica.
[11] Dilivaria ilicifolia.
[12] Azadirachta Indica.
[13] Diaspyros embriopteris.
[14] Anacardium occidentale.
[15] Feronia elephantum.

Calpentyn, similarly extensive tracts are in process of cultivation. In every locality it has been found that, on leaving the white sand of the sea-shore, and reaching the darker coloured soil even a little inland, the growth of the tree exhibits a marked decline. Wells, which are indispensable, can be easily dug, and water found in the one locality at a maximum depth of 14 feet, whilst in the other they require to be sunk to 20, and even further before it is reached; and plants after two years' growth attain a height of 12 feet on the white sand, and but six or seven on the red.

Superiority of the white soil.

In preparing nurseries for new estates the nuts are placed in squares of 400, covered with one inch of sand or salt mud, and watered daily till the young shoots appear, when they are planted out in September after the rains. They are put in the ground from 20 to 30 feet apart, so that from 50 to 70 are sufficient for an acre; for when too thickly planted the fruit is defective both in size and quantity. They require to be well manured with sea-weed or salt mud, and watered regularly for the first two years. The loss on the first year's plants from beetles, elephants, and wild hogs, may be taken at 25 per cent., which must of course be re-planted, and the ground between the plants should be kept carefully ploughed and watered till the trees are sufficiently matured to dispense with this encouragement.

Method of planting.

Seed and nurseries.

Watering.

In forced ground the flower stock may be expected about the fifth year; but as a fair average the first crop may be looked for in the seventh or eighth. The fruit ripens in about 12 months, and 60 nuts may be assumed as a fair yield for each tree, and fewer in proportion to their greater size. The ordinary calculation is, that 1000 full grown nuts will yield 525 lbs. of copperah, (or kernel dried for crushing,) capable of producing 25 gallons of cocoa-nut oil.

Produce.

The wages of labour and the cost of other essentials, differ materially in the respective districts of Jaffna and Batticaloa; as well as the system of planting and the number of trees to an acre; and I have obtained the following estimates of expenditure and returns, as they are ordinarily calculated at each.

Estimate of cost and produce at Batticaloa.

ESTIMATE for 100 ACRES at BATTICALOA.

	£.
1st year—	
Land	110
Felling	125
Grubbing	125
Fencing	30
Nuts	40
Draining	20
Tools	10
Buildings	50
Planting	20
2nd year	150
3rd year	150
4th year	50
5th year	50
Superintendence, 5 years	500
Expenses	80
Total in five years	1,510

The produce, calculating 90 trees to an acre and 75 nuts to a tree, sold at 2*l.* per 1000, would yield 675,000 nuts, worth 1350*l.*; or, if converted into oil, calculating 30 nuts to give one gallon, it would produce 22,500 gallons, or about 90 tons from 100 acres.

On the other hand, the planters of Jaffna, admitting the general correctness of the estimate of expenditure as founded on experience in the Batticaloa district, object to the calculation of produce as more than is warranted by their own observation; and substitute the following as the practical result of their own operations.

CEYLON.

Estimate of cost and produce at Jaffna.

CALCULATION of the COST of 100 ACRES of LAND, and planting the same with Cocoa-nuts, till the end of the 5th year.

	£.	s.	d.
Cost of 100 acres of land at 1*l.* per acre	100	0	0
Surveying fees and cutting boundaries	20	0	0
Clearing and grubbing land for the plough	150	0	0
Fencing, say for three miles	15	0	0
Nuts for plants (6000)	25	0	0
Tools, 10*l.*; plough, 16*l.*, cattle, 32*l.*; carts, 10*l.*	68	0	0
Tanks or Wells	37	10	0
Buildings	10	0	0
Planting	5	0	0
Overseer	24	0	0
Total, 1st year	454	10	0
2nd year—			
Ploughing twice, at 1*s.* 6*d.* per acre each	15	0	0
Watering; 12 men; 6 months	36	0	0
Repairing fences	5	0	0
Manuring with salt, mud, &c.	18	0	0
Supplying vacancies	10	0	0
Overseers	24	0	0
Total	108	0	0
3rd year—			
The same as second	108	0	0
4th year—			
Ploughing	15	0	0
Repairing fences	5	0	0
Manuring	18	0	0
Overseers	24	0	0
Total	62	0	0
5th year—			
The same	62	0	0
Total, 5 years	794	10	0

ESTIMATE of the RETURN on 100 ACRES of COCOA-NUT LAND, when in full bearing in the Northern province of Ceylon.

100 acres of land planted at 27 feet apart gives about 58 trees per acre, or 5800 trees.

1 tree	60 nuts
58 trees	3,480 „
100 acres	348,000 „

Which at 2*l.* per 1000 is equal to 796*l.* per 100 acres, or 8*l.* per acre, if sold on the spot.

If made into Oil.

348,000 nuts, give at 40 nuts per imperial gallon
8,700 imperial gallons of oil at 2*s.* per gallon.
Naked, 8*l.* 14*s.* per acre.
Poonack will pay the expense of making the oil.

If shipped to England at the present time, the selling price there is 55*s.* per cwt., measuring 12 imperial gallons, say 4*s.* 7*d.* per gallon, and it can be sent home and sold for 23*s.*, it would leave 3*s.* per gallon, or 13*l.* per acre.

On the whole, my Lord, I look on these plantations as an operation of the utmost value to the colony, whether with reference to internal consumption or with regard to an export of the produce; and I shall not fail to watch over their progress with an anxious desire to extend to their projectors every reasonable encouragement and facility.

Increase of the trade in cocoa-nut produce.

During the year 1847, the external trade in the produce of the cocoa-nut palm has steadily increased. The export of the oil was—

In 1846	£ 7,939
In 1847	18,341

And its price rose from 37*l.* per ton, the average of 1845-6 to 50*l.*, the average of 1846-7.

The coir for ropes and cordage was—

In 1846	£8,724
In 1847	10,220

The export of the nuts in their natural state has declined; a consequence of the use of a larger quantity for purposes of manufacture; as well as an evidence of increased consumption by the Singhalese themselves.

Cinnamon.—I have no reason to doubt the general and concurrent testimony brought frequently before me that at the present moment and for some time past the cultivation and sale of cinnamon have been carried on at a loss. Even at the apparently low price for which the Government cinnamon gardens were sold, their purchasers have, in almost every instance, failed to realize a profit, the great increase in the quantity produced under their management, followed unfortunately by an equally great decline in the demand, owing to the derangement of commercial affairs in the Spanish Peninsula and the South American States, (the great consumers of the spice) having prevented them in most cases from realizing interest for their capital, and in many, involved the new proprietor in actual loss. There are, however, exceptions, where the article produced is of the finest quality, and where long experience and judgment have been brought to bear on its preparation. Strange and contradictory as it must seem to those not familiar with the peculiarities of the cinnamon trade, notwithstanding this universal depression of prices and losses on shipment, and although it was known in the early part of the year that the duty on its export was about to be reduced by 66 per cent. in September next, the exports of cinnamon during 1847 were greater by 1,400 bales than those of 1846, the value being in—

Depression of the trade.

Increased export in Colony.

1846	£40,162
1847	44,736

This result, so different from what might have been anticipated under the circumstances, is traceable, however, to distinct considerations and causes. First, from the pressure of the times, which rendered it impracticable for almost any of the merchants to hold back any but the very lowest qualities, so important was it to obtain advances to carry on the cultivation, and so difficult to obtain them; and, secondly, an impression prevailed in the trade that so much spice would go home immediately after the reduction of the export duty as would create a fatal glut in the English market, and a consequent depression of value; and this belief induced many to ship who would otherwise have held over.

Its causes.

This state of things warrants an apprehension on my part, that the present discouragement and neglect of the gardens, followed as it will of course be by want of care and imperfect preparation, will lead to a reduced production and deterioration in the quality of cinnamon during the next year or eighteen months, and that little, if any, wild cinnamon will, at first at least, be cut in the jungle and forests, as advances are always required for this trade, and financial affairs are not favourable for any extensive arrangements of this nature at present. But although from these temporary causes the cultivation and export may not exhibit so large or so sudden an extension on the reduction of the export duty, I have no reason to doubt that the effect will be at once apparent, and permanently beneficial, although the difficulty of placing a tax upon wild cinnamon equivalent to any amount of land-tax which might be imposed on its cultivation in gardens, may possibly give it an undue advantage in the home market, which will not be entirely balanced by its inferior quality.

Prospects.

In my Despatch of the 13th December, 1847, No. 175, soliciting your Lordship's sanction for the Customs Ordinance then passed, and which has since received Her Majesty's confirmation, by which, amongst other provisions, the export duty on cinnamon was reduced from 1*s.* to 4*d.* per lb., I took occasion to observe, that from sound information then in my possession, " I had reason " to believe that cinnamon could not be grown in Ceylon and delivered in " London, including the 1*s.* export duty, and all other charges under 2*s.* 3*d.* or

Calculation of cost of production.

CEYLON.

"2*s*. 4*d*. per lb., without including any profit on the outlay, interest of money "or rent of the estate." After the 1st September next, when the reduced duty will come into force, it is expected that plantation spice may be put on board, the new duty of 4*d*. included, at 1*s*. 4*d*. to 1*s*. 6*d*. on an average of all qualities. To this must be added 6½*d*. for all charges until it reaches the buyer at home, and ½*d*. for dryage and waste. It should therefore sell at home for 1*s*. 11*d*. or 2*s*. 1*d*. to clear prime cost; and as a less profit than 2½*d*. or 3*d*. would hardly remunerate the care of growing it, it should command a price from 2*s*. 2*d*. to 2*s*. 4*d*. at the new rate.

For some time past the average selling price of seconds (which really represent the average value of all kinds) has been 2*s*. 6*d*., a price which has left a loss to those in whose gardens thirds bear a large proportion, and could only remunerate those whose plantations produce largely of first and second qualities.

Cinnamon oil.

The intention announced of abolishing the export duty on cinnamon oil has already given an impulse to its manufacture, much spice of a coarse description, almost unsaleable at present prices, being now converted into oil, a branch of trade which had of late years been much neglected.

Areca Nuts.—A very considerable export of these articles, the fruit of a beautiful description of palm,* is carried on principally to the coast of India, where they contribute to the filthy luxury of chewing betel, the leaf of the latter being wrapped round the powdered areca nut, and mixed with a pinch of burnt lime to add to its acridity. The appearance of the natives when indulging in this stimulant, which they do almost without intermission, is as if the lips and mouth were covered with blood. The value of the export of areca nuts has been steadily increasing for the last few years. It was in

Export.

1844	.	.	.	£21,162
1845	.	.	.	32,684
1846	.	.	.	34,326
1847	.	.	.	36,807

The cultivation and export is exclusively in the hands of natives.

In the cultivation of the other articles particularized in the Despatch of last year no material change has taken place.

Cotton is cultivated, but not in sufficient quantity to supply the consumption of the colony, though there can be little doubt of the entire suitability of large tracts to its production on an extensive scale.

In *Hemp* some experiments have been made, and with success, to prepare a fibre from the plant which yields it in such abundance in Manilla, the Musa textilis. Some time ago a gentleman connected with Ceylon, being struck with the value of this article to the Spanish colony, whence its exports command 35*l*. per ton in the English market, transmitted some of the plants to Ceylon; but on their arrival they proved to be *the wild plantain*, which already abounds in all parts of the island. The natives are not unacquainted with its properties, but have long used its fibre for the purposes of cordage and the weaving of coarse cloths. It grows freely in the altitudes suitable for coffee, and appears to spring up spontaneously on neglected estates. The experiment of preparing hemp from it on a small scale has been successful, and some specimens have been sent home to test their probable favour in England. If approved of, the export might take place to almost any extent.

Wild plantain fibre.

Pine-apple flax.

The fibres of the pine apple, which grows profusely in Ceylon, have long been used in Manilla for the weaving of the very finest description of cloth, equal to French cambric prepared from flax. Attention has not yet been turned to this article in Ceylon.

Other fibrous plants.

Many other plants are used here for the preparation of cordage, several in the maritime provinces being especially suited for making fishing-lines and nets,† and others in the interior for twine and coarse thread.‡

Agriculture in Ceylon.

As an art, agriculture may be said to be unknown in any part of Ceylon, except amongst the Tamul population of Jaffna and the north. The Singhalese in the rest of the island raise their rice by irrigated fields, and their dry grain by burning down patches in the jungle; but in neither case is the land turned to the best advantage; and as regards the first, their favourite crop, so invete-

* Areka catéchu.

† Urtica verrucosa, Ichno-carpus paniculata. ‡ Sanseriera Ceylanica, Crotolaria juncea.

rate is habit, that in some large districts they permit the weeds to grow rankly amongst the rice, acknowledging the injury produced, but reconciling themselves to it, by explaining that in their district it has been the practice from time immemorial to allow the weeds to grow, and they cannot depart from the custom of their fathers.

Inveteracy of habit.

In Jaffna every cultivated spot is securely fenced; and as there are no hills and no rivers, the inhabitants would be helplessly dependent on the periodical rains, had they not dug one well or more in every field, and by incessant watering they succeed in obtaining a third harvest in each year, instead of two as formerly, one after each monsoon. For home consumption they grow an innumerable variety of fruit and vegetables, almost unknown in the rest of the island—melons, gourds, brinjals, yams, cassava, country cabbage, and many others; and for trade and export, in addition to their great staple, tobacco, which is the finest in the east, they produce grain of all kinds, and curry stuffs, especially onions and chillies, for shipment to India. as well as the coast of Ceylon. The value of the tobacco exported was in

High state of agricultural science at Jaffna.

1843 . . .	£12,518
1844 . . .	17,549
1845 . . .	17,189
1846 . . .	16,561
and in 1847 . . .	17,741

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradenia.—During the past year the progress of this establishment, under the able management of Dr. Gardner, has been very satisfactory, both as regards its improved appearance, and its usefulness to the colony. Though the demand for plants and seeds has been somewhat less than during the two previous years, yet it has not declined to the extent which might have been expected from the present depressed state of agricultural affairs. It is, however, worthy of remark, that the natives are now applying more frequently than formerly for both exotic vegetable seeds, plants, and fruit-trees, following, no doubt, the example which has been given to them by the European settlers in the country. This fact is the first encouraging evidence I have seen of any disposition on their part to depart from the routine of their fathers, or any desire to adopt better systems of agriculture or gardening, when better examples and increased facilities are held out to them.

In the course of an excursion which the Superintendent lately made round the northern parts of the island, in the company of the Colonial Secretary; he added considerably to our knowledge of its natural vegetable productions, and was enabled to make many valuable observations on the soils of the different parts visited, and the effects which they and climate combined are likely to produce on vegetation generally. Besides keeping up, as formerly, an extensive nursery for the propagation and dispersion through the island of useful plants, he has been enabled to introduce several new descriptions, among which there is one in particular which may ultimately prove of some advantage to the colony in a commercial point of view.

New plants.

The Vanilla.—Until within the last few years the vanilla plant, which is so extensively cultivated in Mexico, could not be made to produce its valuable aromatic pods in other countries, although the plants were found to grow luxuriantly, and to exhibit abundance of flowers. The cause of this was discovered by Professor Morren, of Liege, while experimenting on some plants in the Botanic Garden of that place, in the year 1836. He found that, owing to some peculiarities in the reproductive organs, artificial fecundation is required; and attributes the fecundation of the plant in Mexico to the action of some insect which frequents the flower. The absence of this must be considered to be the cause of the non-production of fruit in those plants which have been removed to other countries.

Since the publication of Professor Morren's paper on this subject, attempts have been made to cultivate the plant at Bourbon and the Mauritius, and report speaks favourably of the success of the experiment. Wishing to try how the plant would answer in Ceylon, I obtained a few months ago two boxes of plants from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Mauritius, more than half of which arrived alive, and are now growing vigorously at Peradenia. As the first object of Dr. Gardner will be to increase the stock by means of cuttings, it will be some time before the result of the experiment can be ascertained; he

CEYLON.

is, however, very confident as to its ultimate success, as much of the country and climate of Ceylon is similar to those in which the plant is cultivated in Mexico.

Experiment with sugar.

Shortly after the arrival of the Superintendent in Ceylon (1844), he caused a portion of the uncultivated part of the garden grounds, amounting to somewhat less than two acres, to be cleared of jungle for the purpose of being taken into the garden as a place for a classified arrangement of Ceylon plants. So as to clear it thoroughly, he determined to plant it with sugar-cane in the first instance, having also in view the object of ascertaining the fitness of the soil and climate for the production of sugar. For such an experiment the place seemed to be well suited, as the soil was apparently of good quality, being above the general average of the garden, and nothing had hitherto been planted on it. The experiment was continued for three years, each year yielding a crop. The first crop produced at the rate of about two tons to the acre; the second, only about 8 cwt. to the acre; and the third to about 6 cwt. The first crop was a very fair one, being above a West India average. The great falling off in the two succeeding ones was, no doubt, owing to the soil being very deficient in the constituent parts necessary for the growth of cane, and that they were exhausted, or nearly so, by the first crop. During the early part of the growth of the last crop, guano was applied at the rate of about 2 cwt. to the acre, in solution, but without any apparent beneficial result.

The fruits of Ceylon being very inferior to those of many other tropical countries, Dr. Gardner is endeavouring to import better varieties, and during the last year he has been successful in introducing the large fruited mulberry and loquat from Bengal, as well as some of the best varieties of Egyptian oranges. For the latter we are indebted to Mr. Trail, the director of the gardens of his highness Ibrahim Pasha of Cairo. Of the 16 plants which arrived all are now alive but one, and are growing so luxuriantly that they will admit of grafts being taken from them during the approaching rainy season.

Geology and Minerals.—In 1847, with your Lordship's sanction, Dr. Gygax, an experienced Swiss mineralogist, was appointed to make a geological survey of the district of Saffragam, and the mountains surrounding Adam's Peak, being the portion of the island the most prolific in metals and minerals. In the pursuit of this inquiry he met with signal discouragement, from the evident reluctance of the natives to afford either information or assistance; but, nevertheless, his journeys have been productive of much valuable information, and the discovery of many productions capable of lucrative export, the existence of which was hitherto unknown. A condensed report of Dr. Gygax's proceedings, as recorded by himself, will be found in the Appendix.

No. 2.

SECTION III.

Trade, Banking, and Exchange.

The trade of Ceylon, as tested by its imports and exports, exhibited in 1847 the aspect which might have been expected from the unsatisfactory condition of British commerce generally, and the internal depression which checked the operations upon plantations and coffee estates. As regards

Imports—the gross amount, as compared with those of 1846, exhibits an increase of 49,000*l.*; but as this includes a large increase under the head of treasure (of which a considerable proportion was re-exported), the actual imports of the year fall short of those of the preceding by 24,000*l.*

	Merchandise Imported.	Treasure.	Total.
	£.	£.	£.
1846	990,859	381,842	1,372,701
1847	966,814	454,972	1,421,789

Analysis of the imports.

A small increase took place in the import of articles of primary necessity, grain, provisions, live stock, wearing apparel, and coals for steam navigation. But the usual consignments to merchants have fallen off, as well as the import of stores, machinery, and the articles ordinarily consumed on estates and plantations. Cotton goods and silk, haberdashery, millinery, earthenware, cutlery,

books, furniture, and glass, and wines, have all declined, as well as arms, ammunition, and horses, the latter being used in Ceylon only as objects of luxury. Hardware, metals, wrought and unwrought, and tools of all descriptions are likewise amongst the items which have been introduced in diminished quantities.

The return of *Imports* for the year therefore stands thus—

Gross Imports, Treasure included.

	£.
1846	1,372,701
1847	1,421,787
Apparent increase .	£49,086

Net Imports.

	£.	£.
1846.—Gross value . .	1,372,701	
Deduct specie . .	381,842	
Goods imported . . .		990,859
1847.—Gross value . .	1,421,787	
Deduct specie . .	454,972	
Goods imported . . .		966,615
Decrease in 1847 . .		£24,244

Treasure.

It must be likewise observed that the increase in the import of specie was only apparent, as after deducting the relative sums re-exported in the two years, the amount actually introduced in 1847, falls considerably short of that in 1846.

Treasure Imported.

	£.	£.
1846	381,842	
Re-exported .	87,402	
		294,440
1847	454,972	
Re-exported .	198,566	
		256,406
Decrease in 1847 . .		£38,034

Exports.—The exports of 1847 present a more satisfactory result, as a considerable addition has been made to the amount shown by the returns of 1846. This has arisen chiefly under the heads of coffee, (which has been exported to the value of 127,833*l.** beyond that of 1846), arrack, areca-nuts, cinnamon, cocoa-nut oil, coir, gems, and tobacco. On sugar, plumbago, and some other articles, there is a trifling decrease.

Analysis of exports.

The actual improvement during the year (excluding the re-exports of specie and goods in transit) is shown as follows:—

	£.	£.
1846.—Gross exports .	679,286	
Specie . .	87,402	
	591,884	
Imports re-exported	94,074	
		497,810

* COFFEE:—

	Cwt.	£
1846	173,891	328,791
1847	293,220	456,624
	119,329	£127,833

CEYLON.

		£.
Brought forward . . .		497,810
1847.—Gross exports .	961,116	
Specie . .	198,566	
	762,550	
Imports re-exported	116,052	
		646,498
Increase, 1847		£148,688

Review of trade in 1847.

As regards the trade of the island, as tested by the returns now transmitted to your Lordship, it may be said of the year 1847, that whilst our staple exports, coffee, cinnamon, and the produce of the cocoa-nut palm exhibit a satisfactory advance, notwithstanding the unfavourable aspect of the period; those items of our imports which exhibit a decline have been evidently affected less by untoward appearances within the colony, than by adverse influences from without. The diminution in the quantity of treasure remitted from England, producing, as it naturally did, a curtailment of expenditure and operations on estates, led to a diminished demand for the machinery, implements, and stores which are ordinarily required by the plantations in the interior; and whilst the consumption of articles of primary necessity, provisions, live stock, and apparel, kept the import at its usual level, or rather above it, the exigencies of the moment imposed such a restriction on the use of articles of luxury and taste, as naturally produced the decline in their introduction, which is indicated by the returns.

Shipping.—The returns of shipping entered inwards shows a total increase of 142 vessels, with 16,792 tons, in favour of 1847, the respective numbers being—

	Vessels.	Tons.
1847 . .	3,111	228,738
1846 . .	2,969	211,946
Increase	142	16,792

The return of shipping cleared outwards shows also an increase of 96 vessels, 16,564 tons, for the year 1847, compared with the preceding 12 months :—

	Vessels.	Tons.
1847 . .	3,062	228,998
1846 . .	2,966	212,434
Increase	96	16,564

Native Shipping.—As compared with 1846, the registered tonnage of vessels belonging to Ceylon in the year 1847, exhibits a diminution, but this has chiefly been caused by a recent revision of the register, and the removal of vessels lost or broken up.

	1846.		1847.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.
Western Province	292	15,799	256	13,703
Southern Province	256	9,810	264	10,089
Northern Province	117	4,384	126	4,669
Eastern Province	16	566	16	594
Total, Island of Ceylon . .	681	30,559	662	29,055

Banking.—The Despatch which accompanied the Blue Book for 1846, and others of recent date,* have given your Lordship full details as to the capital and proceeding of the banking establishments of the colony. The operations of the bank of Ceylon have been greatly contracted during the year 1847; and both establishments were compelled, from the aspect of commercial affairs, to contract the extent of their accommodations to the public; and advances

* No. 19, May 10, 1847; No. 153, Nov. 11, 1847; No. 86, May 1, 1848.

CEYLON

Rates of exchange.

were chiefly made upon covered bills, or drafts against the crops of coffee in process of shipment. The following table exhibits the maximum and minimum rates for purchasing and selling bills on England and the presidencies in each of the years 1844, 1845, 1846, and 1847.*

PURCHASING.

	1844		1845		1846		1847	
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.
On England:								
6 mo. st. .	4 pr ct. pr.	3 pr ct. dis.	4 pr ct. pr.	7 pr ct. dis.	2 pr ct. dis.	7 pr ct. dis.	3 pr ct. dis.	7 pr ct. dis.
3 mo. st. .	4½ pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.	4 pr ct. pr.	1 pr ct. pr.	1 pr ct. dis.	5 pr ct. dis.	Par.	5 pr ct. dis.
30 d. st. .	5 pr ct. pr.	1 pr ct. dis.	5 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. pr.	½ pr ct. dis.	5 pr ct. dis.	2 pr ct. pr.	3 pr ct. dis.
Bombay .	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11⅜*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11⅜*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11⅜*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11*d.*
Madras . .	1*s.* 11⅝*d.*	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	1*s.* 11⅝*d.*	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	1*s.* 11⅝*d.*	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	1*s.* 11⅜*d.*	1*s.* 11¼*d.*
Calcutta .	1*s.* 11 3/16*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	1*s.* 11⅜*d.*	1*s.* 11*d.*

SELLING.

On England:								
6 mo. st. .	7 pr ct. pr.	. .	7 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.	1 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.	Par.	5 pr ct. dis.
3 mo. st. .	8 pr ct. pr.	. .	8 pr ct. pr.	5 pr ct. pr.	Par.	2 pr ct. dis.	2 pr ct. pr.	4 pr ct. dis.
30 d. st. .	9 pr ct. pr.	. .	9 pr ct. pr.	7 pr ct. pr.	3 pr ct. pr.	Par.	5 pr ct. pr.	2 pr ct. dis.
Bombay .	Par.	1*s.* 11¾*d.*	Par.	1*s.* 11½*d.*	Par.	1*s.* 11¾*d.*	1*s.* 11¾*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*
Madras . .	2*s.* 1*d.*	Par.	. .	1*s.* 11⅜*d.*	Par.	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11¾*d.*	1*s.* 11⅝*d.*
Calcutta .	2*s.* 1*d.*	Par.	. .	1*s.* 11 11/16*d.*	Par.	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	Par.	1*s.* 11⅝*d.*

The current rates of *interest* on loans in 1847 were, discounts on three months' bills, 12 per cent.; short loans on deposits, 10; on long loans on mortgages of real property so few advances were made that no quotation can be given.

Gold.—The gold imported during the first nine months of 1847 exceeded that imported during the same period of 1846, but after the panic of October the amount was very trifling. The price, however, was fully maintained, and many thousands of dragon sovereigns were sold from 22*s.* 6*d.* to 23*s.* The Oriental Bank imported a considerable quantity of bar and leaf gold from China, which sold about 24*s.* the sovereign weight.

SECTION IV.

Post Communication—The Surveyor-General—The Commissioner of Roads—The Civil Engineer.

Post office.

The very ample details connected with the Post Office Department, given along with the returns for 1846, obviate the necessity of further exposition in the present Despatch. The great difficulties still to be overcome are opposed by the nature of the country and the want of roads to connect remote districts, between which the mails are now carried by foot-paths which traverse the jungle and sands, and are intersected by deep and rapid streams infested by alligators, through which the letter-carriers have to wade for one-third the year, carrying the packets above their heads. These men receive such trifling pay (from 15*s.* to 18*s.* per mensem, for travelling 16 miles a-day to and fro) that it is difficult to select a trustworthy class, or to enforce regularity by adequate restraints.

Inferior class of post-holders.

Owing to the scattered nature of the population, and the absence of any

* As your Lordship may be desirous to trace the effects of the recent financial crisis to a later period, the rates of exchange are continued for the early portion of the present year.

	1848 Purchasing on England.			1848 Selling on England.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.		Maximum.	Minimum.
6 mo. st. .	1 per cent. pr.	3 per cent. dis.	6 mo. st. .	3 per cent. pr.	1 per cent. dis.
3 mo. st. .	2 per cent. pr.	Par.	3 mo. st. .	6 per cent. pr.	4½ per cent. dis.
30 d. st. .	5 per cent. pr.	2 per cent. pr.	30 d. st. .	8 per cent. pr.	5 per cent. dis.
Bombay . .	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	1*s.* 11¼*d.*	Bombay . .	1*s.* 11¾*d.*	1*s.* 11¾*d.*
Madras . .	1*s.* 11½*d.*	1*s.* 11½*d.*	Madras . .	Par.	1*s.* 11⅝*d.*
Calcutta . .	1*s.* 11⅝*d.*	1*s.* 11*d.*	Calcutta . .	1*s.* 11¾*d.*	1*s.* 11¾*d.*

CEYLON

class, equivalent to the class of country shopkeepers of England, who would take charge of the letters in out-stations for a small annual salary, it is equally difficult and expensive to keep up as many stations throughout the interior as would be required for the efficient accommodation of the planters. Some idea may be formed of the difficulty of procuring fit postholders for these districts by the fact, that the postholders during the last year have been changed five times at some of the inland stations, by removal for misconduct and neglect, or by resignation from the insufficiency of pay, which the state of the finances does not admit of being increased at present.

Overland Mail.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company having at the beginning of 1847 sent three new steamers to India for the performance of their contract, and finding it necessary that all their ships should be sent from time to time to Bombay to be repaired, proposed to the Treasury to carry free of expense, between Bombay and Ceylon, the mails arriving at the former place, and sent homeward from the latter at the end of each month, thus obviating the necessity of employing our own colonial steamer, the "Seaforth," on this service. This offer, which would have relieved the colonial Government of the expense of employing that vessel monthly, was, however, rendered less acceptable by days of departure being fixed, by the Company's agent at Bombay, entirely with a view to the interest of that community, so that the mails arriving from England for Ceylon would be detained a week or 10 days at Bombay, and those forwarded homewards would have to be dispatched from this about the same day as those forwarded by way of Galle, and which would reach London a fortnight earlier. For this reason the proposed arrangement has as yet been productive of little advantage to Ceylon, nor have I as yet been able altogether to appropriate the "Seaforth" to urgent local services. I trust, however, to see such improved arrangements as will secure to the colony the benefits designed by the Peninsular and Oriental Company in making their liberal proposal.

Suspension of the Bombay expresses during the south-west monsoon.

The uncertainty with which the Overland Mails have been in former years brought down by portions from Bombay, during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon, induced the Postmaster-General to apply to Government for permission to propose to the Secretary of the General Post Office, in London, that the packets should only be made up for Ceylon once a month in May, June, and July, and that the whole of the correspondence of those months should be sent to Point de Galle. This arrangement having been acceded to by Her Majesty's Postmaster-General, has been acted on accordingly; and it has been in some measure followed up in London by announcement being issued that no mails will in future be forwarded to India, by way of Southampton, at the commencement of the month, but that all such correspondence will be transmitted by way of Marseilles, which will, no doubt, cause the bulk of the mails throughout the year to be sent to India by the steamer leaving Southampton, on the 20th of each month.

Receipts and Expenditure.—Notwithstanding the great reduction of postage on inland correspondence in 1846, diminishing by one-half previous charges, the revenue of the department has improved in a very trifling degree; whilst owing to the increase of salary rendered necessary by a rise in the prices of all requisites of life, the expenditure has been augmented by some hundreds of pounds.

The following are the returns for the last three years:—

	1845.			1846.			1847.		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts	7,385	6	3	7,576	15	6	7,600	13	0
Expenditure . . .	6,590	2	5	7,448	11	8	7,916	2	5

It is, however, to be borne in mind that, although private franking has been almost entirely discontinued, the public correspondence and parcels of all weights from every office in the island are carried free, and their cost is included in the above expenditure. The revenue is chiefly derived from the western and central provinces of the island, which are the most closely inhabited, the other four provinces giving very scanty returns. Out of the above receipts the following amounts were levied in the western and central provinces:—

1845			1846			1847		
£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
5,229	4	5	5,584	10	4	5,569	7	4

As the Overland correspondence is mainly from and to persons residing in those commercial and agricultural districts of the island, it will be seen that, as far as letters are concerned, their number has not increased; but there has been a very great augmentation in the number of newspapers received, which is chiefly owing to the attraction which the pictorial papers have in the eyes of the middling classes.

The improvement in the communication between Colombo and Point de Galle has been very great since the conveyance of the mails has been in the hands of the present contractor. The mails which have been landed at Galle about 10 o'clock on the one day have been assorted and dispatched to every part of the island before 2 P.M., and have generally reached Kandy, a distance of 144 miles, at the same hour the next day. From that station despatches might reach our naval officers at Trincomalie in 28 hours.

No improvements in the Post Office department need be suggested, in addition to those mentioned in last year's report, in which everything which the present state of this island would admit of was fully pointed out.

The Surveyor-General's Department.—Owing to the suspended demand for Crown lands, the operations of this department during the year 1847 have been chiefly confined to the prosecution of measures with a view to the general survey of the island; the services of the officers on the contingent list have been dispensed with, and those on the fixed establishment employed principally in the re-survey of large tracts in the central province and the allotment and survey of lands for cocoanut planting in the eastern. Some lots of Crown lands were also prepared for sale; but the extent is too trifling to require particular notice.

As the constitution and strength of this department have been made the subject of recent Despatches to your Lordship on the subject of its future employment, it is unnecessary to refer to it further in this paper.

The total expenses of this department for salaries and charges of every description during the year were 4743*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, but, owing to diminished sales of Crown lands, only 367*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* was recovered from purchasers.

Roads.—During the year 1847, the expenditure on this important department has been compulsorily reduced, from the state of the colonial finances, considerably below that of 1846, as will be seen by the accompanying table:—

	1846			1847		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
On 367½ miles of the principal or 1st class carriage roads, there has been expended in repairs and upkeep	19,300	19	9¼	15,131	18	1
On 217½ miles of 2nd class roads, bridged and opened to full width, but neither metalled or gravelled, for upkeep and repair	5,136	1	2½	2,996	17	2¼
On 694½ miles of all other descriptions of roads, expenditure having been confined to that which would suffice to prevent serious deterioration	19,594	9	6¼	5,316	16	0¼
Towards completion of 40 miles of road from Gampola to the Calany Gange at Yatteautotte	7,311	7	11¼	9,782	19	11
Opening and improvement of roads previously only partially opened	1,885	16	11¾	4,120	10	8¼
Peradenia Bridge, repaired	..			3,206	1	2¾
Departmental—salaries, &c. &c.	7,793	10	10¼	6,312	18	10¼
	61,022	6	3¼	46,878	2	0¼

New roads.

The most important line of new road now in progress is that which is to connect the coffee districts in the central province with the navigable river, the Kalani ganga, by which their produce may be brought for shipment to Colombo. On this work, 9782*l.* was expended between Gampola, where it joins the road to Kandy and Yatteantotte, where the new road debouches on the river. The completion of this valuable communication will, I trust, be effected in the course of next year, and not only afford signal facilities to the planting interest, but greatly relieve the traffic and consequent expenditure upon other lines.

CEYLON.

The *Kandy Road*, between Colombo and the central capital, is a source to me of much anxiety, owing to its paramount importance, coupled with the serious annual expense for its maintenance: 10,000*l.*, voted for it in 1847, have been found quite inadequate to its repair, and an additional 5000*l.* must inevitably be expended during the present year.

Northern road to India.

One new line of road was sanctioned in 1847, to be executed in the present year, viz., from Manaar on the western coast to the great central and northern line, by which the Malabar Coolies, for whose convenience it is specially intended, make their migratory journeys to and from India. It will be about 45 miles in length; and of such an inexpensive character, that from 30*l.* to 40*l.* a mile will be all that will be required to open and render it traversable for wheel traffic, though it will require further outlay as that traffic increases.

Inadequacy of income to keep up the road system.

As regards roads generally, and with reference to the state of the revenue of the colony, the funds which the Government has hitherto been enabled to place at the disposal of this department from the ordinary revenue, have been wholly inadequate to the efficient upkeep of the old established lines, and the improvement or extension of new. But I rely with much confidence on the operation of the Road Ordinance, now under your Lordship's consideration, without which or some equivalent means for the construction and upkeep of communications, I cannot but entertain serious apprehensions of our inability to effect that indispensable object.

Northern province.

There is no one district in the island whose prosperity is not at present retarded, by the insufficiency of means of transit and traffic. In the Northern province, the vast and fertile provinces of the Wanny, once a separate kingdom, and the productive plains of Nuweracalawa, formerly the granary of the Ceylon sovereigns, are now deserted solitudes, owing to the utter want of roads of any description, with the exception of one line from north to south, the instantaneous effects of which on the cultivation and prosperity of the sections of country in immediate contact with it were almost incredible; rice and other produce, before unsaleable, having at once become double in value by the demand created through this new outlet. Diverging lines in other directions, but connected with this main trunk will be productive of incalculable advantages to these districts; and on them must depend the success of any attempt that may be hereafter made to repair the stupendous tanks and channels for irrigation, by which these provinces were once rendered the most luxuriant in the island; as, owing to their decay, they are now the most forgotten and unproductive.

Eastern province.

The Eastern province has been so long neglected as regards roads, that it may be said to be absolutely destitute of any save the unfinished one between Trincomalie and Kandy. It should be improved, and if possible bridged; and the fertile country on either bank of the Mahavilla Gange in its course through Tamankadooe should be opened up to the coast and harbour of Trincomalie. Already the effect of carrying a communication between the latter place and Neurakalawe by the road recently formed to Anarajapoora has been most satisfactory.

North-western province.

In the North-western province, the old road from Putlam to Kurnegalle, which is in a miserable state, would demand our first attention, while several short lines are required from the coast inland from Chilaw and Madampe, especially to very populous portions of the district, which are at present only partially known, and have rarely been visited by Europeans.

The prosperity of the salt and the fish trades in the north-western province, is much retarded for the want of facilities of access to the inland districts; the grain production of which is limited to the consumption of the inhabitants from the difficulty of conveying it to a market. These provinces are, if not retrograding, at least stationary as regards improvement.

Western and Central provinces.

In the *Western* and *Central provinces*, the existing unfinished or projected lines will absorb all the labour and means which the country can for a series of years afford for their completion and upkeep.

Southern province.

In the *Southern province*, the only existing line of carriage road is along its coast for 67 miles from its northern limit at Bentotte to Dondra Head. Many miles are required in this province, and its population is so dense in parts, that the judicious application of the Road Ordinance will soon change the face of the country. But on this Ordinance must rest all hope of any further *extension* of our internal communications, as with the funds at present,

or which it appears probable will be hereafter available from the revenue of the colony, it will be barely possible to keep existing roads in efficient repair; and to complete the lines which have been traced and are partially opened, or to open others still urgently required, will be quite out of the question with our present resources.

Civil Engineer.—In this department I placed every possible limit to expenditure at the beginning of the year, from an apprehension of the financial difficulties which were foreseen from an early period. Public works already commenced, or repairs of urgent necessity, were those alone to which I gave my sanction, and even under these restrictions, the expenditure of 1847 has been very considerable.

Gaols.

The new gaols at Colombo and Kandy have been far advanced towards completion on the original plan; and at the former, the labour of the prisoners has been made available to a great extent under the superintendence of the Civil Engineer. The prisons of Kaigalle, Putlam, and Matele, have also undergone extension and repair.

Hospitals.

The lunatic hospital, at Colombo, was opened for patients in the early part of the year, and the pauper hospitals of Kurnegalle and Kandy extensively repaired.

A residence for the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, at Peradenia, has been completed, at an expense of 980*l.*; and alterations, additions, and repairs, have been as usual made to the churches, official residences, court houses, and public buildings, throughout the island; items, trifling in individual amount, but in the aggregate forming an important but unavoidable outlay.

Lighthouse at Galle.

The whole of the plating of the Iron Light House, which arrived from England in September, 1847, has been put up, the rock having been previously prepared for the footing course. The outlay in 1847 has been 540*l.*, including the passage out, and salary of Mr. Paget Walker.

The cost of the Light House, with freight and charges, amounts to 1861*l.*, and a further sum of about 650*l.* (including the Engineer's salary, passage home, &c.), has been paid in 1848 to complete the erection.

The light is now exhibited, and the effect most satisfactory.

Jetties. Bridges.

Jetties have been constructed and repaired at Galle, Colombo, and Negombo, at an expense of 903*l.*; and 17 bridges have been built or renewed throughout the island at an aggregate expenditure of 9493*l.*

SECTION V.

Revenue and Expenditure.

On the revenue and receipts of 1847, compared with those of 1846, there is an increase of 37,000*l.* on some items, but deducting a decrease of 13,000*l.* on others, the net increase on the income of the year is 24,000*l.*

	£.	s.	d.
Revenue, 1847 . . .	440,619	5	7½
,, 1846 . . .	416,403	15	2¼
Increase . .	£24,215	10	5¼

The increase.

The chief items which exhibit an increase are the Customs, especially the duty upon exports, which has been augmented by the large quantity of coffee, cinnamon, and cocoa-nut oil shipped in that year, the tax on home-grown rice and other grain, which has likewise increased, owing to the greater breadth of cultivation, encouraged by the favourable rains; garden farms, including the right to cut cinnamon in the Government garden at Marendahu; stamps, judicial and commercial; the Commissariat receipts; and the revenue arrears of former years, of which a much larger sum has been recovered in this year than in 1846.

Decrease.

The decrease is chiefly under the heads of land sales; salt which has greatly declined since the cessation of the export to India; tolls; the assessment tax on houses; and arrack and toddy farms which are liable to be affected by every fluctuation, which increases or restricts the amount of wages and money at the

CEYLON.

disposal of the labouring classes, The arrears of rent due upon the year are also very considerable, and are now in process of recovery.

The balance as between the increase and decrease is exhibited as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Arrears of revenue of former years recovered more in 1847 than in 1846	9,737	0	0
Increase on Customs revenue, viz., on exports, 6000*l.*; on imports, 3500*l.*; and on port dues, &c., 300*l.*, or in all.	9,800	0	0
Increase on Paddy fine grain and garden farms, duty on timber, licenses to distil and deal in spirits, weights and measures, chank farm, postage, and assessment on carts	2,384	0	0
Increase on judicial and blank stamps	2,786	0	0
Increase on Commissariat receipts for stores and provisions sold, and issued to the troops	4,845	0	0
Increase on premium on bills, difference of exchange, interest on arrears of rent and moneys lent out by the Loan Board, &c.	3,047	0	0
Increase on fines and forfeitures, and other small receipts	1,750	0	0
Increase on abatements on salaries	1,551	0	0
Increase on judicial receipts by the agent in London	1,736	0	0
Total increase	37,636	0	0

Deduct decrease on the following heads, viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.			
Sale of lands	6,582	0	0			
Arrack and toddy farms, salt tolls, and assessment tax on houses	1,441	0	0			
On sundry incidental receipts	1,930	0	0			
On surcharges recovered	3,468	0	0			
Deduct decrease				13,421	0	0
Net increase of revenue				£24,215	0	0

Looking to the financial difficulties of the year, and the commercial embarrassments of the colony, this result is highly satisfactory.

In other Despatches I have made your Lordship acquainted with the various changes in the structure of the revenue system which I have effected with the concurrence of the Legislative Council, during the Session of 1847, many of which have already received your Lordship's sanction. I look forward with equal confidence to their effects on the Colonial Treasury, and their beneficial influence on the prosperity of the people; and believing them to be based on sound principles of commercial policy, whatever temporary inconvenience may result to the revenue from the change, I shall not be discouraged in my confidence as to their future and permanent advantages to the colony.

Pearl Banks.—Our prospects of any receipts from the pearl fishery are still, I regret to say, uncertain; but as such intervals of inaction, and even much more prolonged, occurred in the time of the Dutch as well as subsequent to our own occupation of Ceylon, there is no reason for discouragement as to an ultimate return from this valuable though fluctuating source.

An inspection of the Pearl Banks, at which the Colonial Secretary was present, took place in March last; and though the result holds out no immediate hope of a fishery, it is highly encouraging, as pearl oysters of various ages under four years were found, though thinly scattered over several of the beds which have been successfully fished in former years; and two deposits in particular are so far advanced on localities which have hitherto produced the finest pearls, that, if undisturbed, they are likely at no distant period to be highly productive. A new bank was discovered whilst the Colonial Secretary was on board, to the north of the island of Delft, a situation in which pearl oysters were by no means expected. The shells were from four to five years old. This incident has determined me to direct a more vigilant and extensive inspection, in September next, than it has been hitherto customary to make; and I am now taking measures with that view.

The habits of the fish, even after so many centuries of observation and experience, are still most imperfectly understood; nor do even those longest engaged in the pearl fisheries possess any sound idea as to the probable causes of their disappearance, or those which determine their adoption of particular localities. Large and promising deposits have unexpectedly been discovered

(as in the instance of the new bank at Delft, and one similarly brought to light to the west of Calpentyn a few years ago) in the most unlooked for localities; and I have a strong confidence that now, when the "Seaforth" steamer can be more exclusively devoted to this service, a comprehensive and minute survey of all the coast frequented, however irregularly, by the pearl oyster, is likely to be attended with successful results.

The report of the master-attendant, who conducted the last experiment, is subjoined for your Lordship's information. No. 3.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of 1847 exceeds that of 1846 by 20,781*l.*, but this excess is attributable to the introduction of the new system of colonial accounts, by which the commencement of the financial year was deferred from the 1st December, 1847, to the 1st January, 1848; so that the expenditure of 13 months has been comprised in the returns for the latter year. The addition thus made exceeds 22,000*l.*, deducting which, the actual expenditure of the year is less than that of the previous one.

The following statement exhibits in detail the items of ordinary and extraordinary charges, in which an increase or diminution has taken place as compared with the accounts of 1846.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Increase in the ordinary expenses sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government of the current year	13,851	7	0½			
Deduct arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846	3,707	2	11¼			
Difference increase . . .				10,144	4	1¼
Increase in the extraordinary expenses sanctioned by the Legislative Council, viz,,—						
In arrears of former years, paid more in 1847 than in 1846	6,392	12	10¼			
In charges of the current year . . .	4,244	17	2½			
In all increase on the extraordinary expenses . .				10,637	10	0¾
Total increase as above . .				£ 20,781	14	2

The increase of 13,851*l.* 7*s.* 0½*d.* on the ordinary expenses of the current year is accounted for as follows:—

		£.	s.	d.
Increase on the	Governor's establishment . .	258	15	7¼
Ditto	Colonial Secretary's establishment	21	17	10¼
Ditto	Treasurer's establishment . .	29	15	0
Ditto	Civil Engineer, Surveyor-General, and Commissioner of Roads' establishments . . .	3,961	17	4
Ditto	Principal Civil Medical Officer's establishment . . .	735	9	3¼
Ditto	Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens' establishment . .	51	13	4
Ditto	Ecclesiastical establishment .	692	6	9
Ditto	School establishment . .	524	15	7¼
Ditto	Government Agents of the Provinces' establishment . .	768	2	0¾
Ditto	Customs' establishment . .	1,872	5	0½
Ditto	Post-office establishment . .	132	2	3¾
Ditto	Judges of the Supreme Court's establishment . . .	624	13	2½
Ditto	Registrar of the Supreme Court's establishment . . .	11	19	6
Ditto	Queen's Advocate's establishment	314	18	5
Ditto	District Judges' establishment .	1,070	3	8¼
Ditto	Commissioners of Requests and Police Magistrates' establishment	1,572	10	5
Ditto	Fiscals, gaols and police establishments	1,486	13	8¾
Ditto	Colonial Commissariat establishment	529	4	4
Ditto	Allowance to the late Governor to defray his passage to England.	800	0	0
Ditto	Interest on Dutch paper money .	12	8	0¾
	In all increase . .			15,471 11 6¼

CEYLON.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Brought forward		15,471 11 6¼
Deduct decrease on the following establishments:—		
Decrease on the Auditor-General's establishment	101 8 0	
Ditto Masters' Attendant establishment	48 6 2¾	
Ditto Steamer "Seaforth" establishment	58 19 4¼	
Ditto Military pay and allowances .	348 13 9¼	
Ditto Pensions and retired allowances .	1,062 17 1½	
In all decrease		1,620 4 5¾
Difference increase as stated . .		13,851 7 0½
Deduct arrears of former years, less paid in 1847 than in 1846		3,707 2 11¼
Net increase .		£ 10,144 4 1¼

The increase of 10,637*l.* 10*s.* 0¾*d.* on the extraordinary expenses is on the following charges, viz.:—

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Increase on Civil charges, including public works, temporary salaries, and contingencies, being arrears of former years, charged more in 1847 than in 1846	13,384 10 1½	
Deduct decrease on similar charges of the current year	6,489 6 1¾	
		6,895 3 11¾
Increase on pensions and retired allowances, provisional . .		403 3 10½
Ditto on charitable allowances		191 7 3½
Ditto on provisional salaries, and contingencies of the school establishment		344 1 2¾
Ditto on judicial charges, including temporary salaries and contingencies, being arrears of former years, charged more in 1847 than in 1846	1,512 18 0	
On charges of the current year . . .	1,660 12 1¼	
		3,173 10 1¼
Ditto on charges of the fiscals, gaols and police establishments of the current year . .	737 9 10	
Deduct arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846	142 2 4¾	
		595 7 5¼
Increase on charges of the Post Office establishment, including temporary salaries and contingencies of the current year . . .	345 7 9	
Deduct arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846	25 1 11	
		320 5 10
Increase on military contingent charges of the current year	74 16 4¾	
Ditto on arrears of former years . . .	34 4 2	
		109 0 6¾
Ditto on charges by the Agent in London for stores and other miscellaneous expenses		5,607 7 3
Total increase . . .		17,639 7 6½
Deduct decrease on the following charges:—		
Revenue charges on arrears of former years . . . £1,778 15 5¾		
Deduct increase on the charges of the current year . . 970 8 1		
	808 7 4¾	
On charges of the Customs' department . .	3 5 9	
Commissariat charges, including cost of provisions and stores, military works, &c., being arrears of former years, less charged in 1847 than in 1846 . . . . 6,933 4 9¼		
Deduct increase in charges of the current year . . . 170 10 8½		
	6,062 14 0¾	
Charges by the Governments and Agents in India	127 10 3¼	
Total decrease		7,001 17 5¾
Net increase as stated . . .		£ 10,637 10 0¾

The excess of the expenditure over the income of the year has been provided for from the surplus revenue of former periods, and after meeting this and all other charges, the balance in hand in all the Colonial Treasuries on the 31st December, 1847, amounted, as shown by the returns appended to my recent financial Despatch, to 90,854*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, inclusive of 42,149*l.* in Government notes. The amount of Government notes in circulation at the same date was 48,706*l.* A statement in detail, exhibiting the relative amounts in each cutcherry, in coin and paper, will be found attached to the Appendix.

Balance in hand.

No. 108, June 7, 1848.

No. 4.

From the facts which I have thus submitted to your Lordship's notice, and others established by the very copious returns which accompany this Despatch, some important conclusions claim special attention, as indicative of the past progress and future prospects of the colony. The years 1844 and 1845 are those which exhibit the most ostensible outward evidences of advancement and prosperity; as the eagerness for forming plantations of coffee had then attained its climax, and the demand for lands suitable to that purpose was then at its maximum. The first check to this activity was applied by the events of 1845–6, when the revenue of the latter year declined from 454,000*l.* to 416,000*l.*; and it is gratifying as evidence of the recuperative power within the colony itself that, during the last year, although our receipts from land sales and other casual sources have not recovered, the steady advance of the regular revenue has been such as to compensate for the loss, and to bring the income of the year something nearer to an equality with that of 1844, before the panic commenced:—

	1844			1845			1846			1847		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Regular revenue . . .	385,145	8	9¾	375,104	14	8¼	360,612	9	0¾	383,880	16	2¾
Casual revenue and incidental receipts . . .	59,173	8	3¼	79,041	11	9¾	55,791	6	1½	56,738	9	4¾
Total revenue . .	444,318	17	1	454,146	6	6	416,403	15	2¼	440,619	5	7½

Economy.

Paradoxical as it may appear, I am constrained to say that I anticipate greater difficulty in controlling and reducing expenditure than in providing a suitable amount of revenue. Many sources whence the latter may legitimately be derived appear to me as yet untouched, and others already productive seem capable of extension by judicious management. But establishments once formed, and expenditure sanctioned in anything like an annual or permanent form, I find the utmost difficulty afterwards to reduce and contract. The duties of those appointed on emergencies or for the execution of particular services, when protracted gradually and almost imperceptibly, become fused with the general routine of departments, and practical obstacles are offered to every contemplated plan for their subsequent separation and reduction. A continuance of prosperity, and an increase of income, lead to an extension of operations, and this naturally involves not only an augmentation of temporary employment, but an increase of the fixed establishments of the colony, which it becomes all but impossible to reduce without an apparent violation of public faith. Between 1841 and 1847, your Lordship's predecessors have sanctioned additions to the fixed establishments to upwards of 40,000*l.* per annum, and during the same period the demand for roads, buildings, and public works of every description, occasioned by the increase of planting operations, and warranted by the aspect and receipts of the public treasury, has added upwards of 100,000*l.* per annum to the casual expenditure of the colony. This liberality was justified by the excess of income over outlay, which, in 1844 and 1845, left a surplus, which, after defraying every colonial charge, was sufficient to form a fund out of which the excess of expenditure over revenue was provided for during the two succeeding years.

CEYLON.

Expenditure.*	1844	1845	1846	1847
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Ordinary expenses sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, including salaries and establishments, pensions, &c. . .	215,423 11 11¾	223,255 5 10¼	246,026 19 11½	256,171 4 0¾
Extraordinary expenses sanctioned by supply ordinances	152,124 8 11¾	213,368 5 7	229,584 0 5¾	254,476 2 6¼
Extraordinary expenses sanctioned by ordinances to expend surplus revenue of former years . . .	7,328 13 4¼	11,609 0 4¾	22,594 8 4¾	8,339 16 5
Total expenditure .	374,876 14 3¾	448,232 11 10	498,205 8 10	518,987 3 0
Excess of revenue over expenditure	69,442 2 9¼	5,913 14 8	. .	. .
Excess of expenditure over revenue	. .	. .	81,801 13 7¾	78,367 17 4½

* Calculated in 1847 for 13 months.

That fund is now exhausted; but a permanent addition to our annual expenditure has been entailed by its outlay, the roads, buildings, and public works, which the colony was enabled to construct out of this extraordinary fund, must now be maintained and kept in repair out of its ordinary revenue, and establishments for their superintendence and upkeep must necessarily be maintained on a scale proportionate to their recent extension. No effort has been spared on my own part to effect every possible reduction, and your Lordship will not fail to perceive that my exertions have been so far successful as to bring the actual outlay of the last year below that of the preceding one; a result which had not occurred for some previous years, and which was the more difficult to realize, as the sums assigned to particular services during the first year of my government, had been so appropriated and voted by the Legislative Council, in the session of 1846, before my arrival in the colony.

The following table will show your Lordship the increase of expenditure in each of the last three years compared with that of 1844:—

Diminution of expenditure in 1847.

	Ordinary Expenses sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government.	Extrordinary Expenses sanctioned by the Legislative Council.	Total Increase.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The increase of expenditure of 1845 over 1844 was	7,831 13 10½	65,524 3 7¾	73,355 17 6¼
Ditto of 1846 over 1845 was . .	22,771 14 1¼	27,201 2 10¾	49,972 17 0
Ditto of 1847 over 1846 was . .	10,144 4 1¼	10,637 10 0¾	20,781 14 2

But as the gross expenditure of 1847, it will be borne in mind, includes 22,000*l.* on account of one month of 1846 comprised in its account, the actual net outlay of the year, after deducting this sum, will be found to fall below that of 1846.

In this course of economy it is my intention to persevere till the maturing of a permanent and satisfactory revenue may warrant a return to more generous expenditure; but I cannot withhold from your Lordship on this occasion a fresh allusion to the fact, to which I have so frequently invited attention, that my grand obstacle in the attempt to bring the expenditure of the colony into greater consistency with its income is obstructed on every hand by the disproportionate charges with which the island is burthened for military purposes, the defrayal of which has involved the colonial treasury in difficulties and embarrassment at the present moment, as regards the discharge of our financial obligations, on account of the civil government.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c.

(Signed) TORRINGTON.

Appendix No. 1.

Return of Lands under Coffee Cultivation.

	No. of Estates.	No. of Acres Planted before 1845.	No. of Acres Planted in 1845.	No. of Acres Planted in 1846.	No. of Acres Planted in 1847.	Total.
Western Province . . .	53	2,865¾	1,533¾	853	262¾	5,515¼
North-western Province .	5	345	59	..	..	404
Central Province . . .	309	23,219	9,573¾	10,299¾	3,710¾	46,803¼
Grand Total . .	367	26,429¾	11,166½	11,152¾	3,973½	52,722½

J. Emerson Tennent.

Appendix No. 2.

Dr. Gygax's Geological Survey.

I left Colombo on my tour in July, 1847, and my instructions required me to note in a geological way the features of the country, pointing out the peculiarities of the soil and climate, and, where specimens of ores or valuable earths were found, to examine the locality, with a view to ascertain the existence of any mines of value. I started for Ratnapoora, the capital of the district, and followed the course of the Walloway river for many miles, taking my way south-east towards Balangadde; thence in the direction of the higher mountain zone overlooking the Bintenne country.

Geological formation.

The geological formation of the district appears to be similar to that known as the Cambrian and Devonian. The rocks are mostly granitic, interspersed by innumerable strata of irruptive matter, viz., syenite, hypersten, erphotite, and basalts, in all their varieties. In the lower parts of the district the country chiefly consists of low undulating hills of quartz rock, with limestone and basalt.

Soil.

The *soil* generally is of a superficial character, bearing luxuriantly a few crops, but, on being worked, very rapidly wears out. It is believed that the heavy rains, at certain seasons overflowing the country from the higher forest lands, descend so charged with carbonic acid from the decayed vegetation as to neutralize and wash out the little alkaline matter of this superficial soil. The red and brown soils, however, the produce of the Plutonic formation, are far more lasting, as they contain a good deal of rich alkaloids, with more iron and manganese.

Rivers.

The only considerable rivers here are the Kalu-ganga and the Walloway, running from the south-east to the north-west; the small streams run from south-west to north-east. The former river is navigable from Ratnapoora to the sea at Caltura, from which place there is a canal to Colombo, which will materially assist the transfer of ores and minerals to Colombo.

From the commencement of my researches I felt convinced that I should succeed in meeting with mines of iron, tin, manganese, cobalt, nickel, and others; and, even at the present moment, although but very partially successful, and meeting with many difficulties, I am confident of their existence, both from the general features of the country and from the evidences met with. It must be borne in mind that all the specimens, or even larger quantities of metals hitherto collected, have been simply taken from the surface; no attempts having to this time been made at excavating; there being not one mason or stone-worker in the district, nor a stone building of any description, except the ancient temples.

Iron.

The varieties of *iron* met with are six in number, viz., magnetic iron ore, titanate of iron, chromate of iron, iron with manganese, iron pyrites, and yellow hydrate and red peroxide of iron. The iron, however, in most of these is scanty, and the ores of little value, except to extract the chrome and manganese. But there is another description of ore found in vast abundance, brown and compact, generally in the state of carbonate, though still blended with a little chrome, and often with molybdena. This occurs in large masses and veins, one of which, I believe, extends for a distance of 15 miles. Of this, millions of tons might be smelted, and, when found near water carriage and fuel, it may be worked to a profit. I would lay particular stress on the very fine quality of the iron ore found in Ceylon; it is easily smelted, and so pure when reduced as to resemble silver. The rough ore produces from 30 to 75 per cent.; on an average, fully 50 per cent. The iron wrought from it requires no puddling, and steel thus made cuts glass like a diamond. From calculations carefully made the metal could, I think, be laid down in Colombo for about 6*l.* per ton, and this supposing the ore had to be brought hither for smelting, and even prepared with English coal; but anthracite, being found on the spot, could be used in the proportion of 3 to 1 of English coal, and much cost saved.

Fine quality of Ceylon iron.

Remains of ancient furnaces.

Remains of smelting furnaces are met with in all directions, precisely similar to those now in use amongst the natives. The Singhalese never go to any trouble for the ore required; they seek a spot where the last rains have loosened the soil, and there break out a sufficient quantity, which is prepared in a couple of hours by the most simple means. None of their furnaces can reduce more than 20 lbs. of ore, and this yields from 7 lbs. to 10 lbs. of good metal.

CEYLON.

Manganese. *Manganese* is also found in considerable quantity, though not in such abundance as iron, and the low price of the article does not hold out any inducement to work it.

Chrome. *Chrome* is met with mostly as chromate of iron. It is found also of similar character to that of Baltimore and the Ural. It might cost when brought to Colombo 3*d.* per lb., whilst the value in England is represented to be about 9*d.*

Nickel and Cobalt. *Nickel,* in the form of an arseniate, is found interspersed with many other ores in the alluvium of this district; it exists in small flat pieces resembling copper. It might be profitably exported to China, where it is of value as a colouring matter. Nearly in the same state and quantity, and in similar positions, may be found *Cobalt,* another base, of a fine colour and of value.

Tin. The *tin* ores are also found in the alluvium just below the strata of precious stones. The locality most favourable for the existence of tin is decidedly in the eastern side of the district, along the base of the high mountain zone, and especially near the Edelgassina pass. To work tin mines here with success, it will be necessary, I anticipate, either to reduce the height of the rivers or to employ powerful pumps in each mine, so plentiful is the water, and at so high a level. The position in which this ore has been met with is precisely similar to that of the ore in Saxony and Siberia, with tourmaline, white topaz, firkoni, garnet, and korundum.

Titan and Wolfram. *Titan* and *wolfram* ores are likewise found in the alluvium and in the iron and tin ores. They are used in porcelain manufactures as colours, forming a rich brown, a sheel green, and sheel yellow.

Molybdena. Next in abundance to iron exists *molybdena,* in the Saffragam district. It is to be met with dispersed through all the varieties of rocks, and throughout the alluvium in small grey scales, so nearly resembling plumbago that it is commonly taken for it. It is chiefly found in a state of bisulphuret in the Cambrian and Devonian strata. The ore was used in the 16th century for the manufacture of pencils, and at a later date to assist in working brass, bronze, and iron it has never been in general use. It might be obtained in large quantities in the neighbourhood for statues, &c.; but it has been hitherto found so sparingly, and the price has been so high, that it has never been in general use. It might be obtained in large quanties in the neighbourhood of Kalturta, Godagamoa, Ballatotte, and Komdrugalla.

Tellurum. The very rare and valuable metal, called *tellur,* is also to be found in these vicinities. It has only hitherto been met with in Transylvania and the Ural mountains; it is used for chemical purposes only, and not long since bore the same price as gold in Europe.

Plumbago. *Plumbago,* or *graphite,* is found chiefly in the southern side of Saffragam, in the Kukulo Korle. It is believed to belong to the same formation as the anthracite, viz., to the upper stratas of the Devonian formation, The principal mine is at Nambepane, and contains a large vein running from north-west to south-east. The ore is pure and chrystalline near the basalt, and compact and massive further from it. I believe that this vein extends to a distance of 40 or 50 miles towards the Bintenne country. The plumbago of Ceylon is pure and light, and now that a method has been discovered to purify and to compress it, the value will rise, especially as it is now required in the new process of smelting ores by galvanism. For this purpose it might prove a valuable export to South Australia.

Anthracite. *Anthracite* may be found in precisely similar situation with plumbago. Indeed, whilst the latter is the metallic carbon, the former is a hydrate of carbon. Just as plumbago is found near the basaltic eruptions, so is anthracite found. Both contain the same foreign substances, viz., quartz, alumine magnesia, titan, chrome, manganese, and iron. It is my opinion that this substance exists, as abundantly as does plumbago. I recommend exploring the country for it near the Bentotte river, half way between Galle and Colombo, and I believe that it might be produced for 18*s.* the ton, whilst English coal cannot be laid down under 28*s.* It is recommended to burn half anthracite and half coal, and now that large quantities of fuel are monthly required by the steamers touching at Point de Galle, this becomes a subject of importance.

Nitre. *Nitre* has long been known to exist in Ceylon, and Davy, in his account of the island, describes it and its localities. I think that it exists in sufficient abundance to form an article of export, and that it would be good policy on the part of the Executive to encourage any undertaking of the sort by liberal terms of renting the spots found to contain nitre. The localities where the production is met with appear to be very similar to those in Brazil. In Saffragam there are about 60 caverns, varying in extent from 100 to 20,000 cubic feet. The abundance of wood to be found near these spots would appear to favour the lixiviation of nitre, and by their being situated within short distances of water conveyance, the produce could be economically conveyed to Colombo for purification and shipment.

Kaolin. *Kaolin* is met with in great abundance throughout the district, varying in quantity from small strata to large rocks, and also in all degrees of purity. The cheapness of this article in Europe alone prevents it from becoming one of great value for export. The best earths yield from 40 to 70 per cent. of the pure article. It makes a ware very similar to the Wedgewood, when well prepared, and a superior kind of tile, capable of receiving all colours, might be formed with it, especially as we have around such abundance of colouring materials for imparting any tint required. The coloured tiles found in the Moorish Palaces in Spain are of this earth, and they are as fresh now as when made. The vicinity of anthracite to burn them, and navigable rivers for their conveyance, are all in favour of the manufacture, which would be infinitely preferable to the common porous bricks now in use in Ceylon for floors of dwelling-houses, both as regards appearance and healthiness.

Steatite. *Steatite,* or French chalk, is found, but not very pure, nor in great abundance.

Lime. *Limestone* is found abundantly. Marble may be met with, but not of great purity.

So rich is the soil of many parts of Ceylon in precious stones, that despite the explorations which have been carried on for so many centuries, there is still an incredible quantity in Saffra-

gam. They consist chiefly of the ruby, blue and yellow sapphire, chrysoberille, topaz, tourmaline, spinell, garnett, cinnamon stone, and opal. Amongst all these the proportion of really valuable stones is comparatively small, still many are to be found of great brilliancy and beauty.

Great numbers of persons of very indifferent character employ their whole time in searching and gambling for precious stones, and the villagers are addicted to it to an excess which interferes prejudicially with the cultivation of their Paddy and other lands. It is a pursuit in every way hurtful to the character of the people generally, and the district would benefit much could the search be kept, as formerly, in the hands of a licensed few. It is estimated that from this district alone, exclusively of a large demand within the island, stones to the actual value of 4000*l.* or 5000*l.* are annually exported, of which Government receives no share whatever.

From the low state of civilization of the natives, they cannot be expected to take any active part in the developement of the mineral resources of the country. Their dislike to labour is painfully manifested and is not likely to be overcome, so long as they can obtain a living by searching or gambling for precious stones. Whilst this source of subsistence is left to them, they will not trouble themselves to undertake any mining operations; and it can only be by the aid of European industry, energy, and skill, that the natural wealth of this district is ever likely to be opened up. But it is not the people alone who prove obstacles to mineralogical researches and labour; the country itself from its very nature offers impediments of a serious kind; the luxuriance of the vegetation, even amongst the most rocky parts of the district, renders any correct and continuous examination of the face of the country tedious and difficult. But the greatest impediment to mining operations will prove to be the high level of the rivers, especially of the Kalu-Ganga, and until this can be reduced, which it may be by blasting rocks at the various falls, we cannot hope to prosecute such operations successfully, or at least not to any practical extent. The most encouraging portions of this district for minerals appear to be the eastward, where there is great promise of plumbago, anthracite, and iron. As to lead and copper, these ores might be more reasonably looked for there than in the higher range of mountains; and tin ore, as has been before remarked, appears to be met with in quantity towards the higher zone near the Edelgasena Pass.

In the course of my explorations, a number of resins and colouring articles have been found of an entirely novel character, and some likely to prove of commercial value; but as yet sufficient time has not elapsed to allow of their being carefully analysed, a process which is now occupying my attention, and which, in this country, where the means and appliances are not abundant, proves often a most difficult and tedious undertaking.

(Signed) RUDOLPH GYGAX.

(A true Copy.)

J. EMERSON TENNENT.

Colombo, June 30, 1848.

APPENDIX No. 3.

Appendix No. 3.

Report of the Master Attendant on the Pearl Banks.

(No. 16.)

Master Attendant's Office, Colombo,
April 3, 1848.

SIR,

HAVING returned to Colombo on the 31st ultimo from an inspection of the Pearl Banks lying off the south-west coast of the Northern province, I have the honour to transmit, with this my report, the diary kept by the Adapanaar of the pearl fishery and the other headmen employed under my direction during the examination of the banks, which diary concludes with the collective opinion of these respectable headmen in regard to the prospect of future pearl fisheries.

I left Colombo on the 28th February in the Government steam-vessel "Seaforth," accompanied by two sailing boats, the "Barge" and the "William," of my department, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the Pearl Banks, which have, at intervals, from a remote period, been productive of pearl fisheries, and particularly during nine years of my service under the Government of Ceylon.

Since the last pearl fishery in the year 1837, the state of the Pearl Banks has been very discouraging; even now, I cannot hold out a certainty of a succession of pearl fisheries; but I feel encouraged to look forward to such desirable result consequent on their present more promising condition, there being pearl oysters of various ages, under five years, thinly scattered over much of the ground which I have successfully fished in past years; but more particularly as there are two deposits of pearl oyster-brood of considerable extent, one on the north-west and one on the south-west part of the bank called the Chival Paar. The Chival Paar has been long famous for producing the finest pearl; if therefore the brood now resting on it should not be destroyed by voracious fishes or other accidental causes, we may expect, in due time, to derive revenue from pearls, notwithstanding we have not found any oyster during this inspection old enough to produce them.

The weather has been peculiarly favourable for the divers to work. I have every reason to believe they have done their work faithfully, and that the information obtained from them through the Adapanaars, respecting the state of the Pearl Banks, may be depended on. The Adapanaars, both in their report which accompanies this, and in their verbal communications

CEYLON.

to me, have expressed their favourable impression respecting the improved state of the Pearl Banks, and they recommend, that the "oyster spawn should be protected without being disturbed." It may be necessary that I should explain, that it is not from any apprehensions of the Pearl Banks being plundered that they should have protection; but for the purpose of preventing trading vessels casting their anchors on the oyster-beds, and thereby destroying the fish, and for preventing fishermen using nets, for catching edible fishes on the Pearl Banks, which also catch and destroy the oyster spawn before it settles down upon the banks. The Adapanaars are also opposed to frequent examinations, which they believe disturbs the young oysters and is therefore injurious.

The Adapanaars being left at Arippo, were not present when the "Seaforth" was on the coast of the island of Delft, therefore their diary makes no mention of some oysters of about four years and a half old, being found on the northern side of that island, resembling very closely those fished up in 1844 and 1845 near Jaffna, which yielded no pearl of sufficient value to pay the expenses of fishing them up. Whenever another inspection of the Pearl Banks should be decided on, it would be desirable that the coasts of Delft Island should be included. I incline to the opinion expressed by the Adapanaars, that inspection of the Pearl Banks lying off Arippo should not be too frequently repeated, but I would recommend a search for pearl oysters being made, next north-east monsoon, on the west coast of Ceylon, from the Arippo Pearl Banks down to the vicinity of Colombo.

I herewith transmit a box containing samples of the pearl oysters found on the banks, among which is a specimen of some oyster brood found floating on to the sea beach near Calpentyn.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES STEWART, Master Attendant.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(A true Copy.)

J. EMERSON TENNENT.

Appendix No. 4.

Ceylon.—Abstract of the Returns of the Cash Balances of the General Treasury and of the Six Provincial Cutcherries of Ceylon on the last Day of each of the Months of October, November, and December, 1847.

	Gold.	Silver.	Copper.	Notes.	Total.	Deduct Deposits.	Total in each of the Cutcherries for purposes of Government in each Month.	Grand Total for Government purposes throughout the Island in		
								October.	November.	December.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
General Treasury :—										
October	. .	19,352 9 1	6,320 2 3¾	11,197 0 0	36,869 11 4¾	. .	36,869 11 4¾	36,869 11 4¾	. .	. .
November	.	19,918 4 0	6,215 1 0	13,468 0 0	39,601 5 0	. .	39,601 5 0	. .	39,601 5 0	. .
December	. .	41,805 11 0	9,609 16 8¼	27,147 0 0	78,562 7 8½	22,527 9 0½	56,034 18 7¾	. .	. .	56,034 18 7¾
Western Province :—										
October	. .	3,964 5 4	33 4 4	1,464 0 0	5,461 9 8	1,794 5 11¼	3,667 3 8¾	3,667 3 8¾	. .	. .
November	. .	4,710 4 0	3 0 0¼	1,450 0 0	6,163 4 0¼	1,937 7 1¾	4,225 16 10½	. .	4,225 16 10½	. .
December	. .	3,406 19 0	0 1 11	1,898 0 0	5,305 0 11	2,000 3 3¾	3,304 17 7¼	. .	. .	3,304 17 7¼
North Western Province :—										
October	26 0 0	3,406 6 0	115 10 3¾	918 0 0	4,465 16 3¾	1,146 12 7	3,319 3 8¾	3,319 3 8¾	. .	. .
November	26 0 0	5,331 8 6	104 9 3¼	1,225 0 0	6,687 17 9¼	1,218 18 3¾	5,467 19 5½	. .	5,467 19 5½	. .
December	26 0 0	3,337 4 0	67 8 4	730 0 0	4,160 12 4	505 3 11	3,655 8 5	. .	. .	3,655 8 5
Southern Province :—										
October	. .	9,203 3 0	78 12 8¼	2,268 0 0	11,549 15 8¼	3,976 11 10¾	7,582 3 9½	7,582 3 9½	. .	. .
November	. .	11,001 2 0	204 1 3¾	2,455 0 0	13,660 3 3¾	3,702 18 6¼	9,957 4 9½	. .	9,957 4 9½	. .
December	. .	9,429 11 0	187 17 4	3,759 0 0	13,376 8 4	3,425 15 4	9,950 13 0	. .	. .	9,950 13 0
Eastern Province :—										
October	. .	816 6 0	105 12 3¼	1,892 0 0	2,813 18 3¼	1,217 12 3½	1,596 5 11¾	1,596 5 11¾	. .	. .
November	. .	267 0 0	75 15 5	1,783 0 0	2,125 15 5	940 11 11¾	1,185 3 5¼	. .	1,185 3 5¼	. .
December	. .	124 13 0	38 19 4½	1,161 0 0	1,324 12 4½	837 7 9¼	487 4 7¼	. .	. .	487 4 7¼
Northern Province :—										
October	. .	2,191 2 10	2,733 4 7¼	5,178 0 0	10,102 7 5¼	. .	10,102 7 5¼	10,102 7 5¼	. .	. .
November	. .	2,347 4 4	2,901 10 7	5,520 0 0	10,768 14 11	. .	10,768 14 11	. .	10,768 14 11	. .
December	. .	1,921 16 8	3,052 9 11¼	4,807 0 0	9,781 6 7¼	. .	9,781 6 7¼	. .	. .	9,781 6 7¼
Central Province :—										
October	.	10,283 19 0	673 8 1¼	4,646 0 0	15,603 7 1¼	1,154 10 11	14,448 16 2¼	14,448 16 2¼	. .	. .
November	. .	7,303 15 1	564 19 6	4,220 0 0	12,088 14 7	2,770 2 5	9,318 12 2	. .	9,318 12 2	. .
December	. .	4,623 5 1	369 8 8	2,647 0 0	7,639 13 9	. .	7,639 13 9	. .	. .	7,639 13 9
								77,585 12 3	80,524 11 7¾	90,854 2 6½
							Deduct Government Notes on hand	27,563 0 0	30,121 0 0	42,149 0 0
							Total Coin	50,022 12 3	50,403 11 7¾	48,705 2 6½

Government Notes in Circulation.		
31st October.	30th November.	31st December.
£.	£.	£.
59,837	57,279	45,251

(A true Copy.) J. Emerson Tennent.

CEYLON.

No. 35.

No. 35.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Viscount TORRINGTON to Earl GREY.

Queen's House, Colombo, July 5, 1848.

(*Received August* 28, 1848.)

The coffee bug.

IN my general Despatch I have alluded to the ravages produced by rats [in the coffee plantations], and the still more formidable destruction caused by the invasions of the coffee bug. With regard to the latter, I now send the reports made to me by Dr. Gardner, the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden at Peradenia, from which your Lordship will perceive the extent of danger to be apprehended from this visitation, and the mystery which still invests the causes of its coming, the probable duration of its stay, or the means of its removal.

Its ravages.

In the mean time the effects are most serious; our estate has been reported to me in which the production of a single season, which calculated upon that of the previous one, ought to have been 2000 cwt., fell suddenly to 700 cwt., the difference being destroyed in a few months by the bug, and to the present hour no improvement has taken place in its condition. Others have been more or less unfortunate. In some the insect has disappeared partially, and partially returned, and, in some few, whence it has entirely passed away. The trees are now covered with fresh and healthy leaves and promise an abundant harvest, but unfortunately we are not in a condition to pronounce when this may not again be blighted by another visit from the bug.

Encl. in No. 35.

Enclosure in No. 35.

REPORT on the COFFEE BLIGHT of CEYLON, by GEORGE GARDNER, F.L.S.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradenia,

SIR, July 4, 1848.

AGREEABLY to the instructions contained in your letter to me of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I have visited the coffee districts therein mentioned, and collected such information as I have been able regarding the nature, history, and effects of the "brown scale," or "bug," which for some years past has been infesting the coffee estates of the central province; and now beg leave to lay before you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following report:—

As it would be impossible to understand thoroughly the effects which the insect produces, without having a knowledge of its structure and functions, I shall, in the first instance, detail these, at least so much of them as I have been able to determine.

General character of the coffee "scale" or "bug."

The first thing that attracts ones attention on looking at a coffee-tree which has for some time been infested with the "bug," is the number of brownish coloured wart-like bodies that stud the young shoots, and occasionally the margins of the under side of the leaves. Each of these warts or scales is a transformed female "bug," containing a large number of eggs, which are hatched within it. When the young ones come out from their nest they run about over the plant, looking very much like small woodlice, and at this period of their lives there is no distinction between the male and the female.

Shortly after being hatched the males generally seek the under side of the leaves, while the females prefer the young shoots as a place of abode. In these localities they attach themselves to the cuticle of the plant, for the purpose of undergoing certain transformations, which, being different in the two sexes, will require to be described separately.

Description of the male.

If the under surface of a young leaf of an infected coffee tree be examined with the naked eye it will be found to be studded, particularly on its lower half, with a number of minute yellowish white-coloured specks of an oblong form. These are the *larvæ* of the males being transformed into *pupæ* beneath their own skin. Some of these specks are always in a more perfect state than others, the full grown ones being of a whitish colour, and scarcely a line long. Of those which are of this size some have a much more translucent appearance than others; and if examined with a magnifier, will be found to be empty, the perfect animal having made its escape from it; but if the darker coloured ones are examined in the same manner the nearly perfect insect will be found within it. In this state the animal is of an oblong form, of a yellowish colour, with the rudiment of a wing on each side attached to the lower part of the thorax, and closely applied to the sides. It has six legs, the four hind ones being directed backwards, and the two anterior ones forwards. It has two antennæ, which are directed backwards, and from the tail protrude three short bristles, the middle one of which is both thicker and larger than the other two.

When the transformation has been completed, and the insect has reached its maturity, it makes its way out from beneath the pellucid case by which it was covered. All its organs have then reached their full size. The head is somewhat of a globular form, with two rather prominent black eyes in front, and two long antennæ, each with 11 joints, hairy throughout, and with a tuft of a few longer hairs at their apicis. The legs are also hairy. The wings are horizontal, of an oborate oblong shape, membranous, and a little longer than the bristles of

the tail. They have only two nerves, neither of which reach so far as the tips. One of them runs close to the external margin, and is much thicker than the other, which runs at some distance from the internal margin. Being possessed of wings, the full grown male is much less seldom seen on the coffee bushes than the female.

Description of the female.

The female, like the male, attaches herself to the surface of the plant, the place selected being usually the young shoots, but she is also to be met with on the margins of the under side of the leaves. On the upper surface neither male nor female ever attach themselves. But unlike the male, which derives no nourishment from the juices of the plant, the female, as soon as she has fixed herself, punctures the cuticle with a proboscis which she has on her chest, and by which she abstracts the juices that nourish her. In the early pupa state of the female she is easily distinguished from the male, by being more elliptical, and much more convex.

As she increases in size the skin extends and becomes smooth and dry, the rings of the body become effaced, and losing entirely the form of an insect, she has for some time a yellowish postular-like shape, but ultimately becomes of a roundish-conical form, and of a dark-brown colour. Until she has reached nearly her full size, she still possesses the power of locomotion, and her six feet are easily distinguishable on the under surface of her corpulent body; but at no period of her existence has she wings.

It is about the period of attaining her full size that impregnation takes place, after which the scale becomes somewhat more conical, assumes a darker colour, and, at length, if permanently fixed to the surface of the plant by means of a cottony substance interposed between it and the cuticle to which it adheres.

The scale, when full grown, exactly resembles in miniature the hat of a Cornish miner, there being a narrow rim at the base which gives increased surface for attachment. It is about one line and a half in diameter by about one line deep, and appears perfectly smooth to the naked eye; but when examined with a powerful magnifier, it is found to be studded with very minute warts, which at first sight gives it a dotted appearance. It is entirely destitute of hairs, except the margin of the rim which is ciliated.

The number of eggs contained in one of these scales is enormous, amounting in one which I counted to no less than 691. The eggs are of an oblong shape, of a pale flesh colour, and perfectly smooth. In some of the scales which I have examined, the eggs had just been hatched, and, when laid in the field of the microscope, exactly resembled those masses of life so often seen in dry old cheeses.

One or more small yellow maggots are sometimes found mixed with the eggs, which are no doubt the larvæ of some other insect the eggs of which had been deposited when the scale was soft.

Name of the "coffee bug."

The insect, I find, belongs to the genus *coccus*, and is therefore a congener of that which produces the cochineal of commerce. So far as the only books* within my reach enable me to judge, it seems to be the *coccus asnidum* of Linnæus, which he mentions as being common on evergreen trees in Asia, such as the camellia, &c. He gives no description of the male, but his character of the female agrees pretty well with the coffee one, except in being less conical in the scale state. If not the same, it is a very nearly allied species.

Manner in which the trees are affected by it.

It is not till after the pest has been on an estate for two or three years that it shows itself to any alarming extent. During the first year only a few of the ripe scales are seen scattered over the bushes, generally on the younger shoots, sometimes on the margins of the under side of the leaves; but, should the trees be in bearing, most commonly on the footstalks of the berries. The crop this season does not suffer much, and the appearance of the tree is scarcely altered: the following year, however, brings a change for the worse with it. The scales are found to have become more numerous, and if the young shoots and the under side of the leaves are examined, they will be found to be covered with numberless white specks, which prove to be the young scales in a more or less forward state. The clusters of berries have assumed a black smutty appearance, to have a more numerous crop of scales than during the previous year; and, if the clusters are watched, it will be found that a number of their berries fall off before coming to maturity. The general health of the tree now also begins to fail, and it acquires a blighted appearance: a loss of crop is sustained, but not to any extent.

Cause of the black colour of diseased coffee plants.

The third year brings about a still greater change. The whole plant has then assumed a deep black colour, having all the appearance of soot having been thrown over it in great quantities. This colour is caused by the growth of a black parasitic fungus on the young shoots, and the upper surfaces of the leaves, where it forms a thin fibrous coating, not unlike a piece of velvet or felt. When this substance is examined with a powerful microscope, it is found to consist of a dense interlaced mesh of fibres, each made up of a single series of minute oblong vesicles applied end to end. This fungus, I find, belongs to the genus *antennaria*, and believe it to be an undescribed species. It never makes its appearance on the tree till after the *coccus* or "bug" has been a long time on it, and is no doubt produced by the unhealthy state to which the plant has been reduced, owing to the vitiation of its juices by the insect. As certainly as the scale now appears on the upper surface of the leaf, so surely does the antennaria or fungus never appear on the under one.

Worst stage of the coffee blight.

At this period the young shoots have an exceedingly disgusting look, from the dense mass of yellowish pustular-like scales that are forming on them. The leaves, in consequence of the abstraction of their juices alike by the animal and the vegetable parasite, become shrivelled and evidently diminished in size; and the trees, which, in their healthy state, appeared to cover the

* These are the 13th edition of the "Systema Naturæ" of Linnæus, in the Garden Library, and Deshayes' and Milne Edwards' edition of Lamarck's "Animaux Sans Vertebres," in my own; but the former is now upwards of half a century old, and the latter contains descriptions of only a very few species of coccus. It is much to be desired that the Garden Library contained a good modern work on Entomology.

CEYLON.

ground, now seem to stand out singly. On the best trees thus infested, more than two-thirds of the crop is lost, and, on many, scarcely a berry is to be seen.

Ants frequent diseased trees.

On trees thus diseased, immense numbers of a small black species of ant are found crowding those portions of the plant on which the young scales are most abundant. By the managers of some estates, it was suggested to me that there might be some connexion between the two animals; but there is nothing further than the fact, that the ants puncture the scales for the sake of the fluid matter within them, and in this way they no doubt prevent numbers from coming to perfection.

A white *coccus* found on coffee trees.

Besides the "scale," there is another species of *coccus* sometimes found on coffee trees, but never to the same extent as the other. The female of this kind never changes into a scale, but wraps herself up in a white cottony matter after impregnation, and there producing her eggs, dies. It has sometimes been observed on coffee estates previous to the appearance of the scale, but there is evidently no connexion between them.

History of the scale *coccus* of the coffee.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the coffee trees of the island were never affected with the "scale" till the year 1843, when Captain Robertson first observed it on a few coffee bushes on his estate called Lapallagalla. This estate, together with a few others, is situated immediately on the western boundary of the great central mountain range overlooking the country of the Four Korles, and the tract is known by the name of the Muruta district. Since then the pest has been gradually progressing eastwards through the Dolisbagie, Ambegamoa, Kotmalee, Pusilava, Deltotte, Hunisgiria, and Knuckles districts; but having only appeared within the last two years in the latter places, its ravages have not yet reached to the same extent in them as in the former ones.

Origin.

The cause of the first appearance of the "scale" on coffee bushes I found to be variously accounted for. Captain Robertson's neighbours attribute its first introduction to the island to his having imported it on some Mocha coffee plants that he brought from Bombay. The superintendent of one of the estates near to Captain Robertson's having first seen it on some vigorous plants near the Coolie lines, ascribed its production to the rich manure supplied by the Coolies. Others, such as Mr. Anstruther, believe it to be spontaneous in its origin, and that bad planting, allowing water to accumulate about the roots of the plant, has been the original cause of its production.

Supposed by the natives to be indigenous.

That the coccus of the coffee is considered by the natives to be indigenous there can be no doubt, but the evidence on which they found their belief does not appear to be sufficiently strong. By Mr. Jayetileke Modliar Kandy, a most intelligent native, who is passionately fond of agricultural and horticultural pursuits, I am informed that he has known the "bug" for many years as a pest on the fruit trees of the native villagers, such as the guava; but that he has never known it to spread to the extent that it has done during the last few years. By Captain Robertson I was likewise informed that when he pointed it out to the natives they seemed to be familiar with it. Mr. Little of the Dahanyke estate, in the Ambegamoa, told me that he had seen it abundantly on a guava tree, near his house, in the year 1843, the same year in which it appeared at Captain Robertson's, and two years before any of his own coffee trees became affected. The villagers, he said, seems to be well acquainted with it, and told him that it generally made its appearance every three or four years. I must, however, observe, that I have questioned my head gardener, and the draughtsman attached to the garden, on the subject, and although both of them have been connected with the garden for the last 20 years, and consequently likely either to have seen or heard of such a thing, yet neither of them remember anything of the "coffee bug" till within the last few years, though they have long been well acquainted with somewhat similar, but very different, species inhabiting other kinds of trees. This is a fact worthy of being kept in view, as the draughtsman is a person who has a keen eye for distinctions among natural objects, and therefore less likely to be mistaken than common observers, particularly native ones, who most probably confound the true "coffee bug" with other kinds well known to be indigenous.

Other species of "bug" indigenous to Ceylon.

In the course my present investigations I have met with a number of nearly allied species of scale *coccus* inhabiting different kinds of trees and plants, some of which have spread this season to a very great extent. Nearly all the oleandus in the Peradenia garden are at present overrun with a kind of "scale" much larger and flatter than the coffee one, which, when it comes to maturity, becomes enveloped in a tuft of white cottony matter. Its effects on the tree are quite the same as that of the coffee one, the upper surface of the leaves, and the young shoots becoming even more densely covered with the black matter that gives such a dismal look to the plants. The same species also infests the *Thevetia neriifolia,* and the buddist tree (*Plumeria acuminata*), all the three plants possessing a milky juice. Another species about the same size as the last, but a little more convex, destitute of cottony matter, but exuding a gummy kind of matter round the part it adheres to, is very common at present on the *Gendarussa vulgaris*, the *Kalutræraniya* of the Singalese. A much larger species than either of these was pointed out to me on the Honourable Mr. Fortescue's estate at Kotmalee, inhabiting the leaves of the large green aloe (*Furcræa gigantea*). Another kind infests the jack, another the mangoe; and one different from all these has just been brought to me from Dambool, adhering to the branch of a lantana.

The coffee *Coccus* now infests other kinds of trees.

During my recent excursion it was ascertained that the coffee *coccus* now exists very abundantly on many other sorts of trees, giving them the same appearance and producing the same effect on them. Thus I have observed it on the lime, the guava, the myrtle, the rose, *Careya arbovea,* and *vitix negundo,* the two last common roadside trees. It seems, however, very certain that until within the last five years it has not been known to attack the coffee plant. In most of the districts that I have just visited the coffee trees of the villagers were found to be quite as much affected as those on plantations. In the botanic garden at Peradenia there is

scarcely a tree that is not infested to a degree. It is, therefore, scarcely possible not to believe that, had the insect been in existence in Ceylon previous to the present epidemic, its effects must have been observed at one period or another on the native coffee.

Supposed to have been conveyed to estates on village plants.

Some managers of estates believe the *coccus* to have been introduced to them on young coffee plants brought from native villages, but on questioning them I found that they had no better grounds for their belief than supposition. On Mr. Fairholme's estate at Dimboola it was first seen, about two years ago, on a single bush in the only part of it that is planted with village plants. The bush was taken up and burned, and no "bug" has since appeared on that part of the estate. Had the pest been brought from the village, it is not at all probable that it would have been confined to a single plant.

Supposed spontaneous origin.

If, as Mr. Anstruther supposes, the nature of the soil and bad planting have anything to do with its origin, Captain Robertson's estate of Lapallagalla is one of the most likely I have seen in Ceylon to have given birth to it, or, if not that, at least to have afforded it an excellent field on which to begin its ravages. The soil of it, as well as of nearly all the surrounding estates, is of a stiff clayey nature, and, consequently, the holes that were dug for the young plants must have acted like pots without outlets to contain the moisture that drained into them from the surface; and that they must have been well supplied with moisture is certain, from the fact that the district is one of the most rainy in the island. The roots of the plants must also have found great difficulty in penetrating through the sides of the holes, and, indeed, the whole appearance of the trees shows that matters are not going on well with them at bottom. Nearly all of them have a lanky look, throw out few or no lateral shoots from their lower branches, and, on an average, only yield at the best of times from four to five cwt. of coffee per acre, or about one-half of the usual crop of average estates in other districts.

Localities which the *coccus* prefers.

On nearly all those estates where I have been able to trace the rise and progress of the epidemic, the *coccus* has been first observed in moist hollow places sheltered from the wind, and from thence has spread itself in all directions, even over the dryest and most exposed localities. This is not, however, universal, as on a few estates, such as those of Pen-y-lan and Dakanyke, it first appeared on dry exposed places. That it prefers moist sheltered situations is certain, as, on the Lapallagalla and Nuruta estates, which, about a year ago, had become nearly free of the pest, it still clung in a very obvious manner to those trees that were situated by the side of little streams of water in hollows and ravines.

Extent of injury caused by the *coccus*.

The extent of the injury caused by the epidemic was found to vary considerably in the different districts visited, but was always more or less in proportion to the length of time it had been first observed.

Course which the epidemic runs.

Muruta district.

In the Muruta district some important information was obtained with regard to the course which the epidemic runs. Thus on the Lapallagalla estate, where it was first observed in 1843, it did not reach its maximum till 1846, when the whole estate was covered with the *coccus*, and its accompanying black smut or fungus. During the two first years of its existence little loss of crop was sustained, but in 1845 and 1846 the loss was upwards of two-thirds of what should have been produced had the trees been healthy. In 1847 both the "scale" and the smut began gradually to disappear, and, before the end of the year, it is said that scarcely a vestige of it was to be seen. The seeds of it, however, seem to have been left behind in no small quantity, as the trees are again this season overrun with the "scale," and almost everywhere, but more particularly in hollows and ravines where the soil is moist, the smut is again blackening the trees.

On the estate called Muruta, about a mile to the westward of Lapallagalla, the epidemic has run through a similar course, but from being a season in arrear now presents a somewhat different appearance. This estate first began to show symptoms of the pest in 1844. During that and the following year it did not cause much damage, but in 1846 it had extended over nearly the whole of the plantation, and about two-thirds of the produce was lost on those portions that were worst affected. In 1847 it disappeared in a great measure, but the trees had received such a shock that those growing on the least fertile parts of the estate yielded almost no crop, but those on better soil, and therefore more able to recover themselves, produced an average one. This season the trees at a distance appear to have become quite free of the pest, having nearly regained their usual green colour, and the crop promises to be a fair one for the district; but when the young branches and the foot-stalks of the fruit are closely examined, the scale in its different stages is still found to be there, and as they multiply in such excessive numbers, the probability is that the estate next year will be exactly in the same state that Lapallagalla is this season; indeed, in the hollows many patches of black are even now to be seen.

Of three or four other estates that were passed through in this quarter on my way to Dolisbagie, the next district, no precise information could be obtained, as none of the superintendents had been longer than a few months on them. All of them, however, were found to be perfectly overrun with the pest; large patches of acres in extent being very visible in the whole of them.

Ravages of the rat.

One of these estates, called Diabetmia, was suffering from another evil, the rat; and it was painful to witness the ravages they were committing. A large patch of coffee bushes stretching along a flat at the bottom of a bare rocky hill had so many of their branches cut off and lying on the ground that it seemed as if some one had gone through, pruning them with a knife; and many of the branches thus lopped were fine healthy shoots, covered with fruit. In the adjoining woods I found the *niloo*—an acanthaceous shrub, on the pith of the young shoots of which the rats are said to live—to be all dead. The same I found also to be the case last year at Rambodde, where the rats were committing similar destruction. As the *niloo* is a plant that forms a great proportion of the underwood of our mountain forests, and

CEYLON.

as it flowers only once in every five or six years, and then dies down, the rat will most probably be found to be a regular periodical enemy to the coffee plantations, at least to those bordering on forests.

Dolisbagie district.

The first estate visited in Dolisbagie was Pen-y-lau. There the pest did not show itself till about the setting in of the monsoon in the early part of 1846. It first appeared on the top of a ridge exposed to the wind, and on the opposite side of the estate to that on which the Muruta estates are situated, the distance between them being about six miles. Here the extension of the pest was so rapid, and so virulent in its nature, that in the first year of its having been noticed, 1846, it was estimated that a fourth of the whole crop was lost. After the rains of 1847, it began to disappear, some trees becoming perfectly free, but in low sheltered situations it still continued nearly as bad as ever. The trees suffered so much from the previous year's attack, that scarcely any crop was obtained. Thus, from one patch consisting of about seven acres, only 100 bushels of green coffee were picked. A tolerably fair crop was promised at the beginning of the present season, but at the period of my visit, the pest had become nearly as bad as ever, and will, no doubt, destroy a large portion of it, before it has time to ripen.

Barnagalla and Raxava, two other estates that were passed through in this district, were both found to be suffering to a considerable extent

Ambegamoa district.

In the Ambegamoa district, the first estate visited was Wevely-Talawa. From the superintendent I could get no information concerning it, as he had only been in charge for a short time; but from a gentleman who accompanied me to it, I learned that in 1846, the pest was ravaging it to a fearful extent, and that a heavy loss of crop was sustained. At present the trees seem to be tolerably free of the "scale," but on examination it was found still to exist, and a few black patches were here and there to be seen through the estate.

On Weraloo-gastane, about six miles distant, in a northerly direction, the pest was first seen about two years ago, but as yet its ravages have not been extensive. At present about one-fourth of the estate is affected, and beginning to get black; but Mr. Anstruther, to whom it belongs, says, that he is checking its progress by sprinkling finely-pounded saltpetre mixed with lime-dust on the trees.

On the Dahanyke estate, about four miles further north, towards Kotmalee, the *coccus* was first seen in May, 1845, on a single tree near the Bungalaw, which stands on an elevated exposed situation. In 1846, it spread over about six acres round the spot where it first appeared. In 1847, it disappeared to a considerable extent, but this season it has got worse again, and is now fast extending over the estate.

Kotmalee district.

My first object on reaching Kotmalee, was to visit the Harrangalla estate, as it was there that I first saw the effects of the pest in June, 1846. It had then only been observed about two months before, but had already extended over a patch of about an acre, in a hollow part of the estate, sheltered from the monsoon. Since then it has gone on gradually increasing, and now extends over more than two-thirds of the whole estate, while the effect produced on the trees is much worse than anything I have seen elsewhere. It was truly painful to find that trees, which in a healthy state would produce from two to three pounds of coffee, were either entirely destitute of berries, or only producing a few shrivelled ones that will hardly repay the expense of collecting. I could not ascertain what the loss of crop had been during the last two years.

On the adjoining estate of Oonoo-galla, which is a much younger one, the *coccus* was first seen about the end of 1846, also in a moist hollow part of the estate. This season it has extended over about 30 acres.

Katooboole, and Kadien-Lena, two very large estates in this district, are suffering at present to an alarming extent, and the loss of crop will be something very great.

Dimboola district.

In the Dimboola district, the estates are all young, none of them having yet borne a crop. In all of them the *coccus* has been observed, but only to a trifling extent.

In the Puselavad district, the estates have been in bearing for two or three years, and all of them are more or less infested with the *coccus*, though not nearly to the same extent as the Kotmalee ones. The only one of them that I examined particularly is, that called the Rothschild estate, containing about 400 acres; and it, perhaps, is suffering to a greater extent than any of the others in the district. Here I found the history and effects of the pest to be much the same as elsewhere. It was first observed on a few bushes in a hollow sheltered part of the estate, where the soil is rich and rather swampy, about the beginning of 1846; and since then it has been gradually extending till the present time, when, in its different stages, it infests a large portion of the estate, though perhaps not more than 30 acres are in the worst stage, the loss of crop on which is estimated to be about two-thirds.

Hunisgiria range.

On the Hunisgiria range, which is situated to the north-east of Kandy, the pest did not make its appearance till about two years ago. Upwards of a dozen estates were visited, and on all of them I found the pest more or less to prevail. The Hunisgiria estate, which is the nearest to Kandy, and on the western side of the range, is that on which it first appeared, and the one also that has suffered most. As elsewhere, during the first year it did not cause either much apprehension or damage; but this season several large patches of acres in extent have become quite black. The only other badly infected estate in this district is that called Dottlegalla, several miles further north, and between which and the Hunisgiria estate there are two others but slightly infected. Here, however, no information regarding its origin or progress could be obtained, as a new superintendent had just taken charge of it. Between this estate and that of Cabragalla, at the north end of the range, as well as those on its eastern side, none of the estates have yet suffered, though on examination they were all found to possess the seeds of the pest.

I have been particular in my inquiries into the effect which atmospheric changes produce on the habits and effects of the coffee *coccus*, but no very satisfactory information has been obtained. The general impression seems to be that it flourishes most luxuriantly in wet weather. What the effects of a continuance of drought would produce on the insect it is impossible to say, as during the last two years there has scarcely been any dry weather in the central province; and this continued moist state of both the atmosphere and the soil, I am inclined to believe, has had much to do with the prevalence of the epidemic. As the present season promises to be a dry one, it may perhaps check its progress to some extent.

Influence of atmospheric changes on the *coccus*.

Whatever may have been the origin of the *coccus*, it is certain that having once appeared, the rapidity with which it multiplies, and the immense number of eggs that each scale produces, will sufficiently account for the speed with which it extends. As the females do not possess wings, it is quite impossible that they can spread from tree to tree by flight. By means of their legs, however, they possess excellent powers of locomotion, and as at the opening of each "scale" to give egress to the young that have been hatched within it, hundreds of them must necessarily fall to the ground, many will, of course, take possession of adjoining trees. This seems to be the way in which the pest radiates from a centre to a circumference in those localities where it first appears on estates.

Means of transmission from place to place.

As regards its transmission from one place to another, there are many means by which it may be effected. Thus any one passing an infected tree will be sure to carry away with him hundreds of the minute young, unknown to himself, as they are all but imperceptible to the naked eye; and I should say that Coolies going from one estate to another have done more to extend the pest than anything else. The same end has no doubt also been effected by birds and large insects. In some of the estates that I have visited, the disease was first noticed near the Coolie lines; and where it broke out in single patches in the middle of estates, far from roads, birds have most likely carried the seeds. That the spread of the pest from west to east has been accomplished by transmission of the young females from place to place, is, I think, very probable.

Remedies used against the *coccus*.

Numerous are the remedies that have been made use of to check the progress of the blight, but none of them have had the desired effect. Thus, on the Lapallagalla estate applications of chloride of lime, lime-water, urine, and manuring with guano, have been tried and found wanting. Cutting down the trees, and close pruning them were also had recourse to in vain, as the young shoots soon become as bad as ever.

At Lapallagalla.

At Pen-y-lan. powdered lime thrown over the trees, rich manuring with horse-dung and rotten coffee-pulp, applications of urine, and tobacco fumigation, were tried without effect.

At Pen-y-lan.

At Weraloo-gastane, Mr. Anstruther believes that he is checking the progress of the epidemic on his estate, by sprinkling the trees over with a mixture of equal parts of saltpetre and quicklime. Some trees which had been thus treated were pointed out to me, but as I had not seen them before the use of the remedy, it was impossible to form an opinion regarding its efficacy, especially as on examination abundance of the live "scale" was still found on the trees. Since my return to Peradenia, Mr. Anstruther has addressed the following letter to me on the subject.

At Weraloo.

Saltpetre.

"Ambegamoa, June 23, 1848.

"My dear Sir,

"It occurs to me that perhaps I did not explain to you sufficiently how saltpetre can be most effectually used in destroying the coffee bug. It should be pounded as fine as possible, and dusted over the branches affected while the leaves are wet; it then adheres, and almost immediately melts. I have seen many instances of the success of the application since I had the pleasure of seeing you. My superintendents have tried other modes of application, and, they think, with success; such as simply applying it to the roots, or applying it mixed with manure.

"Yours very truly,

"Dr. Gardner, Peradenia." "P. Anstruther."

With regard to this remedy I must, however, state, that immediately on my return to Peradenia, about 10 days ago, I selected two trees growing in a patch of mocha coffee, for the purpose of testing its effects. One of them was treated according to Mr. Anstruther's plan, the other carefully brushed over with a solution of saltpetre in water, of the strength of about an ounce to the pint. These trees have been daily watched, and in 10 days they are neither better nor worse than those by which they are surrounded.

Powdering the trees over with sulphur and wood-ashes has also been recommended, but this I have found to produce no effect.

At Puselava.

Cocoa-nut oil.

At Puselava the Messrs. Worms found that the application of cocoa-nut oil had the effect of destroying the *coccus*, but, finding that it destroyed the trees also, was abandoned. It is well known that all oily substances applied to insects, destroy them by preventing respiration; and, in the same manner, if applied to trees, especially the under side of their leaves their *stomata* or breathing pores are shut up, and death is the consequence.

Fumigation with sulphur has been recommended, but not yet, so far as I know, put to the test of experience in Ceylon; and some experiments which I am at present instituting with tar-water are not sufficiently advanced to be detailed.

Very doubtful if any remedy exists.

It is, however, very doubtful if any remedy will ever be discovered sufficiently cheap, and, at the same time, easy of application on the large scale it would require to be used on coffee estates. The hot-houses of England have long been infested by more than one species of *coccus*, and powders, washes, and fumigations of all kinds have again and again been had recourse to for their destruction, but seemingly without effect, as I find that Loudon in his "En-

CEYLON.

cyclopædia of Gardening," (Fifth Edition, p. 431) concludes an article on this subject in the following words :—" Brushing off these creatures is the only effectual remedy, and, if set about at once and persevered in, will save the trouble of many prescribed washes and powders, which are mere palliatives." This, of course, is out of the question on a coffee estate, unless, indeed, while the pest was still in its infancy ; but the productive powers of the insect being so great, and the means of spreading the infection so numerous, it is to be feared that such a plan would soon be found to be impracticable.

From all I have seen of the pest, I am inclined to believe, that is not under human controul ; and that if ever it disappears from the island, or at best becomes so much ameliorated in its effects as to be productive of but little injury to coffee estates, it will be by running itself out, as blights of a somewhat similar nature have been known to do in other countries. But whether this may prove to be the case with the *coccus* of the coffee is uncertain, as the experience of the last five years goes to prove its permanency.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE GARDNER, F.L.S.,
Superintendent Botanical Garden.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Colombo.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 36.

(No. 31.) No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. DAVIS, Bart., to Earl GREY.

MY LORD, Victoria, Hong Kong, February 26, 1848.
(*Received April* 22, 1848.)

I PROCEED to make my annual report on the Colonial Blue Book for the year 1847, being the fourth from the commencement.

Revenue.

The revenue of the last year increased, as compared with the preceding, from 22,242*l.* to 27,047*l.* The present year exhibits a further augmentation to 31,078*l.*

The analysis of this will show that it does not include a single item of taxation on the commerce of the port. The amount of 16,630*l.* has been derived from rents of lands, markets, and houses. The licenses to publicans, opium shops, pawnbrokers, &c., clear 6786*l.* These answer the purposes of police as well as revenue, including even the licence (or rather rent) of the stone quarries, and that of the salt contractor, who is answerable for the conduct of the Chinese, with whom he is concerned.

The police assessment, being 5 per cent. on the rent of inhabited houses, is 2240*l.* The remaining revenue consists of 4170*l.*, derived from the fees and fines of the courts, and official fees paid into the treasury; and lastly, of miscellaneous sums, amounting in all to 1252*l.*

Notwithstanding the approval of the Board of Trade to the tax formerly laid on the consumption of opium I was induced, by the general impression that prevailed against it, to convert the monopoly in the hands of a single individual into licenses to any number of manufacturers and sellers of opium within the colony, as reported in my Despatch No. 82, of 23rd July, 1847. The principle of this latter tax being precisely that of licenses for selling wine, beer, and spirits, there can be no objections to the one which do not apply to the other. The advantages of both are, that they combine a tax on vicious indulgences with the means of control over those who provide them.

This brief account of the colonial revenue may serve to correct some misstatements that were made before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1847, on which subject I have to refer your Lordship to a more detailed notice transmitted in my Despatch No. 17, of 26th January.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1845 was 66,726*l.*, in a great measure on account of Public Works. In 1846 it was reduced to 60,351*l.* It has this year been brought down to 50,959*l.*, from which, deducting the local revenue, 31,078*l.* leaves 19,881*l.* to be defrayed from the Parliamentary grant. It should be added, that the expenditure for Public Works, 15,180*l.* is of a temporary nature only, and being deducted from 19,881*l.*, leaves a balance of only 4701*l.* beyond the revenue.

Public Works.

Almost all these works are either completed, or in rapid progress, with the exception of a Government House not yet commenced. A good road of 24 miles now completes the circuit of the island, much of it cut through granite rocks, at a total cost of about 20,000*l.* There are military posts at an average distance of six miles from each other, and the facilities and security which all these works afford have produced a marked effect on the population of the island.

The handsome colonial church is in a state of rapid progress, as well as the public offices, intended to concentrate the principal Civil Departments, and to include the Treasury and Records. A very substantial and commodious court-house, at a cost of 5000*l.*, does away with the payment of 375*l.* annual rent for a temporary building.

The usual reports from the Surveyor-General on the Public Works during 1847, and on the progress of his department, are annexed to the Blue Book.

Military Expenditure.

In the return made to me of the Military Expenditure of the last year, I am glad to see a reduction, as compared with the preceding one, of about 26,000*l.* The principal military works have been an extensive cutting for the parade ground, some considerable buildings for ordnance stores, and the commencement of a main-guard house.

Legislation.

Among the ordinances which have been enacted during the past year by the Legislative Council, the most important, perhaps, is that which extends the ordinary summary jurisdiction of the police magistrates, with reference principally to the Chinese population. This ordinance had been originally drafted (see Despatch No. 108, of 12th September, 1846), with a view to mitigate the inconveniences arising from a vacation of nearly six months between the summer and winter sessions of the Supreme Court; but even when this had been remedied, and the longest vacation reduced to three months, the peculiar habits and character of the Chinese population required that the smaller felonies, such as larcenies to a trifling amount, should be dealt with summarily by the magistrate, instead of being reserved, as in England, for a jury. With reference to the same population, accustomed universally to corporal punishment, instead of long imprisonment, it became necessary to adopt the same mode of punishment under proper limitations and safeguards as to its nature and amount. It had been found from experience that an English prison afforded them the three principal necessaries of life in a degree to which many of them had been strangers, and, in fact, tempted them to commit small crimes for the sake of being imprisoned.

Both the chief magistrate and the superintendent of police have reported most favourably on the working of this ordinance in diminishing the amount of crime.

With reference to the Government of British subjects at the five ports of China, I have added to the efficacy of the criminal jurisdiction of the Consuls, by merely adopting in the Consular Ordinance No. 2, of 1847, the provisions of an order by Her Majesty in Council for the Government of British subjects in the Levant.

I have anticipated the wish of a Committee of the House of Commons on China affairs in June last, that the jurisdiction of the Consuls over civil suits should be extended beyond 500 dollars, by Consular Ordinance No. 3, of 1847, which enacts, that the Consuls, with certain assessors, shall have jurisdiction over all civil suits whatever, subject to an appeal to the Supreme Court of Hong Kong, with the further appeal to the Privy Council in all cases above 500*l.*

Population.

The population return for 1847 is beyond the amount of any former year, being 23,872, exclusive of troops. At the same time that the number of the Chinese has increased, their respectability and fixedness of residence have advanced, as proved by the increased number of dwellings, and the progress, especially, of the out-station of Aberdeen. The road now completed round the island renders them independent of water carriage, by which they were formerly exposed to robbery and piracy; something must also be attributed to the working of the improved Registry Ordinance, under which only householders are registered (instead of individuals) and made in some degree responsible for their inmates. An increase

HONG KONG.

of population simultaneously, with a diminution of crime, must be considered as a decidedly favourable indication.

Climate.

The early panic in regard to the climate of Hong Kong, which was spread in 1843, is now assignable to causes sufficiently plain. On the termination of the war large numbers of troops were landed, labouring under disease, in a new place unprovided with quarters. Under these circumstances intemperance had also its share in aggravating the evil, which seems to be proved by the remarkable fact that the prisoners in gaol were healthy while the troops suffered so extensively. Hong Kong is certainly healthier than most parts of India, and under every circumstance it has been free from the visitations of cholera.

Education.

I have caused three Chinese schools to be selected by a Committee, of which the Colonial Chaplain was member, as the recipients of an allowance of 10 dollars a month each from the 1st January, according to your Lordship's authority conveyed in Despatch 109, of August 12. One of these will be at Victoria, and the others at the out-stations of Aberdeen and Stanley.

The Colonial Chaplain has used praiseworthy exertions towards the education of children belonging to the lower grades of the European population. He has unfortunately not met with a great deal of support from the resident Europeans, and I had the honour to enclose a representation from him upon this subject in my Despatch No. 126, of December 26.

Trade.

The European shipping arrived at Victoria during the year 1847 has been returned by the harbour master at 694 vessels and 229,465 tons, a great increase on former years. The Chinese junks have also increased considerably, having amounted to 50,058 tons, and this in spite of the interpolation in Article 13 of the Chinese copy of the Supplementary Treaty. The imports in Chinese vessels consist principally of sugar, alum, sulphur, rice, nut-oil, and salt, and in 1847 reached the amount of 498,239*l.*, while the exports appear to have been principally opium and long cloths, and to have amounted to 226,130*l.*

Goods have been sold by auction to the aggregate amount of 33,354*l.*, of which 23,154*l.* were exempt from auction duty.

The Blue Book contains the particulars of a trade in Chinese sugar which has entirely sprung up during the past year. The total amount ascertained as shipped in English vessels has been 21,529,600 lbs., valued at 144,827*l.* The greatest quantity of this has been shipped for New South Wales, and the rest for England and India, with a portion for the northern port of Shanghae.

The former prevalence of piracy has been checked (as appears best proved by the increase of native trade) through the active exertions of Captain Loring, of Her Majesty's ship "Scout," by whom nearly 300 pirates were captured in the last year, and delivered over to the Chinese Government. Twelve outlaws of the same description were convicted here before the Admiralty Court in January, and four of them executed, as already reported by me to your Lordship.

I have before had occasion to state that the American whalers from the Pacific have begun to resort to this harbour for provisions and repairs, attracted by its advantages as a secure shelter, the cheapness of supplies, and the total absence of all port dues and customs. The American Consul informs me, that for these reasons he expects the numbers will increase.

Police.

The benefits of the police have been extended since the commencement of this year to the out-stations of the island. With a view to reducing the amount of crime, and rendering persons and property as safe generally as they are within the town of Victoria, police protection has been provided for at all the principal villages and stations through the colony. To carry out this measure, without loss to the Government, it was deemed just that the inhabitants should defray the expenses of the force required for their protection, and as none of the occupants of houses out of Victoria had hitherto paid any police-rate, I felt the less reluctance in requiring them to do so now. The assessors were accordingly directed, in

conformity with the provisions of Ordinance No. 2, of 1845, to assess all property out of Victoria, the rate being levied from the 1st January.

I am glad to observe from the police returns that though more persons have been apprehended during the past than during the former year the number of convictions has been smaller. This seems to argue the preventive power of the police, in fact, its most desirable function.

The superintendent of police reports that the Chinese inhabitants are becoming better acquainted with the English law and system of police, and more desirous to avail themselves of it, as robberies, however trifling in amount, are now made known, when formerly the sufferers submitted quietly. The burglaries during the year 1847, and most of the larcenies, have been committed upon the Chinese inhabitants, generally from the inefficient mode of fastening their doors and windows.

The superintendent further reports that the police service has been gradually improving, and the change made in diminishing the English and increasing the native force has proved beneficial, as the duties of a preventive system are better carried out. There is conclusive evidence that the establishment of a police at the villages round the island has been productive of the desired effect, both in carrying out municipal regulations and preventing depredations. It may, therefore, be anticipated, that the number of piracies and burglaries will diminish for the future.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. F. DAVIS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(No. 6.)

No. 37.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor MOODY to Earl GREY, dated Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, February 9, 1848.

MY LORD, (*Received June* 7, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the "Blue Book" of this colony, for the year ended 31st December, 1847.

In my Despatches, No. 16, dated 9th March, 1847, and No. 47, dated 30th September, 1847, I have stated at length the present state and future prospects of the islands.

For Despatch 9th March, 1847, No. 16, *vide* Annual Reports on the Blue Books for 1846, presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's command, July, 1847, p. 236.

* * * * *

Since the date of those Despatches, no changes have occurred in the colony, and I am unable at present to add anything of interest or importance to the information therein contained.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. C. MOODY.

(No. 47.)

No. 38.

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from Governor MOODY to Earl GREY, dated Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, September 30, 1847.

(*Received February* 24, 1848.)

* * * * *

THE observations I have the honour to submit, embrace different matters, and perhaps may go beyond what your Lordship may desire in the first instance, but, as my object is to furnish data by which your Lordship may arrive at a satisfactory conclusion with regard to future plans in the maintenance and government of the colony, I trust I may be excused.

With respect to the colony being able at any time to maintain itself, it appears to me there is nothing in the character either of its climate or soil, to prevent its not only providing the requisite supplies for the maintenance of its inhabitants, but also for the accumulation of wealth, through the ordinary operations of trade, and partly also by the means of agriculture. The first by capital

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

being invested in the colony, to produce the undermentioned exports, namely:—

1. "Wool," the sheep being imported in the first instance from the main, at a cost not exceeding 12*s*. per head, and afterwards crossed with long woolled rams, brought from England.

2. Hides, tallow, and salted beef, from the numerous wild cattle increasing in the colony, probably at present not less than 80,000.

3. Fish-oil, taken by colonial coasters.

4. Salted fish, to the Catholic countries on the adjoining continent, from among the numerous creeks abundantly supplied in the season. And among other exports, one it appears to me would yield a large return, but it would be entirely a novel undertaking, namely "compressed peat," both charred and not charred, as fuel to those places on the main, where fuel bears a high price, and where coal is imported.*

In a Despatch, No. 5, dated 30th December, 1843, I have entered at large into this subject, and have found as yet no reason to differ from what I there laid down, except where I stated that the fuel could be supplied at 12*s*. per ton. I now think that it could be profitably supplied by the labour of Irish emigrants at 8*s*., or even 6*s*. per ton, in this port, three weeks sail from a market, Monte Video.

A depôt might also be established for the supply of the ship chandlery, and other stores to ships in distress, as well as refreshment to calling ships, likely to be very numerous, when the colony is once in a state of properous advancement.

I have considered the foregoing in the light of commerce and trade, as they have reference only to the production of articles of export. Applying the term agriculture to the actual cultivation of the soil for the production of all the ordinary necessaries of life, to be consumed on the spot, and exporting the surplus, the prospect is not quite so certain to me as the former, about which I entertain no doubt whatever.

In so serious a matter as emigration, and the investment of capital in so distant a dependency, I would wish to state nothing positively, for which there has as yet been so little experience. I would therefore observe the successful and profitable cultivation of wheat, must be well determined by successive experiments before a satisfactory opinion can be pronounced, but if I am informed aright, that by improved principles of agriculture, wheat is now profitably raised in several of the most northern counties of Scotland, (among others Caithness,) I am inclined to anticipate success here, as far as raising enough for home consumption. With respect to the successful cultivation of barley and oats, there is little doubt; under very discouraging circumstances, I have seen both succeed here. Turnips answer peculiarly well, as do also all the common vegetables; of the field-pea and bean, I am unable to give a satisfactory opinion, those in the government garden succeeded, but not in a manner to answer farm cultivation. Upon the whole, therefore, it appears to me that grazing for the production of exportable articles, and not agriculture, except to a very moderate extent, would be the best investment of capital. The former would yield an abundant remuneration, and the exchange of such articles would bring to the colony a cheap supply of those raised by agriculture, possibly cheaper from the United States than could be raised here. From thence, also, must come lumber, unless any enterprising individuals establish saw-mills in the woody region of the Straits of Magellan for which there is every facility.

Such are the capabilities of the islands. I now proceed to offer my observations as to when the colony may be expected to produce the requisite supplies of food for their own maintenance. To do this I must first take the liberty, of submitting a complete view of the past and present state of things.

In the report accompanying the Blue Book, I stated generally the arrangements hitherto adopted by Her Majesty's Government with respect to this colony. Those arrangements have consisted in furnishing and maintaining a limited Government, capable of extension with the progress of the colony, and the construction of certain necessary public works; the expense of both being defrayed by Her Majesty's Treasury.

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* Either for household purposes or for steam navigation.

The Government have also made public through the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, all authentic reports respecting the capability of the colony, but have abstained from taking any direct steps emanating from themselves, for the furtherance of its colonization. Your Lordship justly deems a sufficient time to have elapsed to take into consideration the result of those arrangements, and as a consequence the alterations that such result may suggest. It does not appear to me that the past arrangements have hitherto been attended by any result whatever in England, advancing the colonization of the islands. To account for this, conjecture only can be offered; the insignificance of the place, a place but seldom heard of, contradictory reports, and the greater inducements which other colonies appear to offer to the minds of any considering the matter, probably constitute the chief reason. I think I may with much confidence assume, that no change in this respect is to be expected by a continuance of the present arrangements, however long protracted.

More attention has been paid to the subject in the provinces of the River Plate, and although the prevalent opinion there is at present very unfavourable, the greatest number of the inhabitants have come from thence; of the remainder, some have been left from ships, and but few have arrived from England.

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